

Hafa Adai!

Sasamoto: Every year there's a deficit of \$17M. **Page 2**

Veteran's cemetery now on its second phase of expansion. **PAGE 3**

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'Whatever they find, I'm here'

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is ready to answer any question from the two House panels established to conduct an oversight on his spending, as well as expenditures based on federal assistance and disaster-related funding.

» **Torres confident records of expenditure will hold amid House investigations**

At the news briefing yesterday, the governor expressed confidence that his record of expenditures will hold amid the investigations.

"All my expenditures are on public record so whatever they want to ask questions and See **WHATEVER** on **Page 4**



LEARNING THE ROPES

A licensed *talayero* teaches a participant of Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Community Cultural Class how to use the *talaya* (net). The hands-on instruction on castnet fishing was sponsored by JKPL and Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

See story on **Page 6**

Release of sambar deer is 'explicitly illegal'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The release of deer in Pagan is "explicitly illegal," according to Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) in a Facebook post.

» **Torres says release had consent of NI mayor**

However, in a "special permit/hunting for the Northern Islands," given to the Marianas Visitors Authority, dated June

18, 2020, its release was permitted by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Sablan quoted Public Law See **RELEASE** on **Page 4**

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, July 14, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	312	0	312
Recovered	202	0	202
Active	105	2	105
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	17,671		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	33	0	33
Active	3	0	3
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	10,697**		

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

Mother, relative arrested over death of 3-year-old boy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two women were arrested last Friday over the death last March of a 3-year-old boy who was allegedly found with multiple injuries as a result of beatings.

The boy's mother, Lynn

» **Police say child had multiple injuries due to beatings**

Fitial, 44, and her relative, Stacey Lani Laniyo, 36, were served with an arrest warrant

See **MOTHER** on **Page 4**



A Corrections officer takes Lynn Fitial into a vehicle after a bail modification hearing yesterday afternoon before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo. Fitial was arrested Friday, along with her relative, Stacey Lani Laniyo, over the death of Fitial's three-year-old son last March 16.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Natural Nail Spa located along Middle Road maybe operating its business in a different way, but they still aim to spoil and pamper clients who come and indulge in their relaxing treatments.

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WORLD

The United Nations says the ranks of the world's hungry grew by 10 million last year and warns that the coronavirus pandemic could push as many as 130 million more people into chronic hunger this year.

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LIFE & STYLE

Kelly Preston, who played dramatic and comic foil to actors ranging from Tom Cruise in "Jerry Maguire" to Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Twins," died Sunday. She was 57.

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Local

Sasamoto: Every year there's a deficit of \$17M

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Derek Sasamoto, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief financial officer, says that CHCC will acquire the \$17-million deficit of the medical referral program if the operation was transferred to the corporation during the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee budget hearings for fiscal year 2021 on Capitol Hill last July 13.

Sasamoto shared his financial point of view of the Torres administration's proposal to transfer the Medical Referral Office operation, which is a \$21-million program in terms of costs to CHCC.

"Every year it is funded about \$3 million. So every year there's a deficit of \$17 million or more. Essentially, they are transferring that defi-

cit to CHCC," Sasamoto explained to legislators.

Additionally, he added that CHCC is already operating at a deficit of over \$15 million for the uncompensated care. Also, CHCC does not have the funds for Medicaid match and has not been getting paid by the government agencies.

"We really have to consider and really think hard about funding because you cannot fund that program for 40% and expect 100% execution," said Sasamoto. He added that transferring medical referral to CHCC is "another mountain they have to climb."

Sasamoto said that they have gone from \$30 million in revenues to \$60 million and CHCC has been doing their part to expand services, increase its revenue, and cleaning up their audit.

"Right now, we are bat-

tlng so much from the past and many issues occur in the present, not to mention what's happening with the cash flow and COVID-19," he said.

Sasamoto added that CHCC is operating on \$90 million and for fiscal year 2021, they are requesting a budget of \$33 million. However, the Governor's Office has proposed a \$4.4-million funding for the hospital, 87% less than what

CHCC is asking for.

"I am hearing we are going to get funded \$4.4 million, but there might be a reduction of \$2.7 million. Even at the \$4.4 million level at a \$21-million program, it is going to be at the \$17.6 million deficit," he said.

Sasamoto pressed lawmakers to settle upon if it is doable and make the decision to properly fund it. Sasamoto added that without the funding sup-

port, it can be "very difficult" and that CHCC supports the proposal to transfer the medical referral program to CHCC.

According to CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna, the medical referral program has been "bleeding a lot of money" and she had been requesting in the past that the government should have invested that to CHCC, so they can offer that services.

"That is one of the reasons why we have actually expanded it to have a cancer center here at CHCC. We did reduce the budget in total spending for oncology services by having our own oncologist here," Muna added. She says that she has heard from the community that they don't want to leave to get tertiary healthcare or specialty care outside.

Should the administration push through with its proposal, Muna said they have to form a

See SASAMOTO on Next Page

Cannabis Commission in talks with off-island investors

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The CNMI Cannabis Commission is on a high as talks with off-island investors continue to roll amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chair Nadine DeLeon Guerrero, in an interview, revealed that the commission is in com-

munication with investors from even as far as Washington, D.C. and Boston, Massachusetts as well as from other states. They are looking into a vertical integration setup.

"One of them wants to be a producer, as well as a retailer as well as a Class 1 lounge licensee holder. And then we have another one who's also

a producer, and is interested in wholesale."

"We have other investors that have shown interest in opening up a lab, which is the key component that we're missing in fully launching the medicinal program side, which is very important because testing is very, very vital when it comes to all those that

are interested in obtaining a medicinal registry card."

There are three sections in the law that the Cannabis Commission is pushing out—homegrown, commercial, and medicinal.

The homegrown rules would allow the public to be able to grow cannabis at home, within the confines of the law; the commercial regulations would allow for the marijuana industry where people can invest, sell, or have a lounge; and medicinal regulations for people using marijuana for medical or medicinal purposes.

Aside from off-island investors, the commission is also looking forward to having local investors.

"We also have people... our own people, which is what I'm most excited about, because these are local entrepreneurs that are just, we're kind of holding the floodgates, [in terms of] when can they apply."

The Cannabis Commission is currently setting up their new office on Capital Hill, as well as developing a dedicated website where investors, and interested individuals, could find more about the regulations, with both expected to be done by August.

They are also currently working on amending some minor language technicalities in the regulation, per the Office of the Attorney General's advice. The commission also, at the moment, only has one staff in the person of its managing director Monique Sablan, but is looking to expand as well.

Sablan ensures the commission's stakeholders that they can handle the capacity, in terms of investors, and that they are ready and excited to serve.

"We're working as hard as we can. We've been going back and forth with the Attorney General's Office on ensuring that our applications are written in the best way possible to not only protect the applicant, but protect the CNMI government first and foremost."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To the Class of 2020, there may be no traditional graduation ceremonies for you, but that does not mean your achievements as a student are of less importance. All the more we need to celebrate your graduation because you made it through two super typhoons, this ongoing pandemic, and a lot more challenges that I could not count.

You put in the time, commitment, and hard work to graduate this school year. You persevered through these trying times, attending school in makeshift classrooms and online. The positive mindset you showed to continue your education in the face of difficult situations says something about your drive to reach your goals.

Of course, all these were made possible by the unwavering support of your family, especially your parents, whose faith in you and in what you are capable of doing remains strong. You also have your dedicated teachers and school personnel and officials to thank for. They have their own challenges to confront, too, but they stayed true to what the CNMI education system stands for, which is "Students First."

What you accomplished through these tough years and the help you received from the people around you are the reasons you are celebrating one of the most important occasions in your lives. Be proud and grateful. Your achievements are no ordinary feats in these no ordinary times.

Congratulations, graduates. You've done a great job and time to move on to the next one. Expect more bumps as you navigate your way toward reaching another goal, but don't be discouraged. Keep believing in yourselves, don't stop dreaming and working on your aspirations. Success comes to those who never give up.

Jerry Tan
President and CEO of Tan Holdings

Non-traditional graduations are the 'new normal'

Non-traditional graduations are the 'new normal' as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the world. The CNMI graduation ceremony was held on a virtual platform, allowing students to receive their diplomas and celebrate their achievements from home.

2020 CLASS OF

Congratulations GRADUATES!

From the management and staff of

Tan Holdings **HEALTH WEALTH** **Tan Siu Lin Foundation**

A TANHOLDINGS SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

2020 CNMI GRADUATES

A TANHOLDINGS SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Graduations are best celebrated with memories for keeps.

Check your respective schools to get a copy of Saipan Tribune's supplement, brought to you by the TanHoldings and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, as they recognize the achievements of the resilient Class of 2020.

Veteran's cemetery now on its second phase of expansion

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs is now on their second phase of expansion for the veteran's cemetery in Marpi, this includes sprinklers, columbarium, sprinklers, etc.

According to VAO executive officer Stanley Iakopo, there will be a columbarium and double plots where two people can be buried side to side. The expansion will also include a memorial wall, as well as, installing sprinklers.

The veterans cemetery currently holds 216 existing crypts and 270 new crypts. Additionally, there will be a total of 320 columbariums where urns will be stored.

The veterans cemetery will also include an administration building. "It will be the maintenance [there] and in the future when we do funerals, it will be discussed, we all need the families and do briefings and, and how to, in terms of working on what goes on when our veteran arrives, you know, from the funeral home."

According to Iakopo, the cemetery is a state-run cemetery that's federally funded which means that the CNMI's veterans cemetery has certain regulations that we must follow.

Iakopo stated that he's reached out to the main office in Washington, D.C. to make some exemptions for the CNMI due to the closeness of the culture.

The OVA, in collaboration with the National Cemetery Administration, broke ground last Feb. 25 for the planned expansion of the cemetery that should be completed by the end of the year.

SASAMOTO

From Page 2

task force for the program. "We want to get everybody involved and not put the same burden that we had when we started the corporation," she said.

According to Muna, when they started the corporation, the government threw them seed money and let them deal with the problems which cost CHCC their Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services certification.

"If they are going to transfer to us, please help us," Muna said.

Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) commented that it is irresponsible on their part to throw the medical referral responsibility to CHCC and let them figure it out what to do. "We need to support this corporation if this is going to be the decision of the government."

The CNMI Office of Grants Management and OVA initiated the project in 2017. According to multiple sources,

the process took them three years to accomplish because they wanted to make sure that they did everything correctly

and according to plan.

According to the administration the project's budget sits at \$3.2 million.

"We all die two deaths. The first time when breath leaves us for the last time; but we only truly die sometime in the

future when no one speaks our name or tells our story," Iakopo said on the groundbreaking ceremony last Feb. 25.

HOT SUMMER DEALS

QUALITY USED CARS

NO PAYMENTS FOR 3 MONTHS • MANY VEHICLES BELOW COST

SHOP WITH CONFIDENCE

Masks must be worn at all times

Daily employee temperature check

Sanitation stations in the showroom

Vehicles disinfected before and after every test drive

We practice social distancing

2018 MAZDA6
 SPORT • 7,749 MILES

STARTING AT
\$18,995
STK:18HS892

2018 HONDA CIVIC COUPE
 LX • 7,334 MILES

STARTING AT
\$19,995
STK:18HS927

2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT
GLS • 16,979 MILES
STARTING AT \$11,995
STK:7HS824

2015 HYUNDAI ACCENT
GLS • 55,232 MILES
STARTING AT \$11,995
STK:5R236

2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT
GLS • 38,753 MILES
STARTING AT \$12,995
STK:7R220

2017 MAZDA MAZDA3
SPORT • 13,063 MILES
STARTING AT \$13,995
STK:7HS813

2016 KIA SEDONA
VAN • 35,337 MILES
STARTING AT \$14,995
STK:6HS793

2015 MAZDA MAZDA3
HATCHBACK • 56,995 MILES
STARTING AT \$14,995
STK:5R219

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3
9,120 MILES
STARTING AT \$14,995
STK:18HS860

2016 KIA SEDONA
VAN • 26,337 MILES
STARTING AT \$14,995
STK:6HS719

2017 MAZDA MAZDA3
SPORT • 16,012 MILES
STARTING AT \$16,995
STK:7R231

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3
SPORT • 11,225 MILES
STARTING AT \$17,995
STK:8R228

2018 HONDA CIVIC
EX • 10,749 MILES
STARTING AT \$18,995
STK:18HS928

2018 HONDA CIVIC
EXT • 9,993 MILES
STARTING AT \$18,995
STK:18HS936

2019 MAZDA CX-3
SPORT • 4,550 MILES
STARTING AT \$17,995
STK:9P286

2019 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE
CROSS • 5,736 MILES
STARTING AT \$18,995
STK:9HS898

2018 MAZDA CX-5
TOURING • 43,175 MILES
STARTING AT \$18,995
STK:8R224

2017 MAZDA CX-3
SPORT • 13,201 MILES
STARTING AT \$18,995
STK:17C002

2015 HYUNDAI GENESIS
LIMITED • 29,030 MILES
STARTING AT \$19,995
STK:8P285-A

2019 MAZDA CX-9
SPORT • 12,289 MILES
STARTING AT \$24,995
STK:9D030-D

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AS 7 CHINA-BASED FORMER WORKERS DEMAND \$11.58M IN DAMAGES, IPI asks court to set aside entry of default

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to set aside its entry of default against IPI in connection with a lawsuit filed by seven former workers now based in China.

IPI, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, said although IPI has made

strides in curing the deficiencies in discovery that led to entry of default, it has still been unable to find the funds to pay for sanctions.

Dotts said aggravating this situation is that the U.S. Department of Labor and the Commonwealth Casino Commission have stepped in because of IPI's failure to make timely payroll.

Dotts said because these agencies

have intervened, IPI is forced to find whatever funds in its possession to make payroll.

"If IPI cannot make payroll, it will lose its casino license and cease operations," he said.

Dotts said if IPI loses its casino license and ceases operations, it will be unable to pay sanctions associated with this litigation short of selling assets.

The lawyer said IPI believes that the court has wide discretion in setting aside entry of default, and that deciding this motion should be liberally construed in favor of setting aside entry of default and deciding on its merits.

Last June 12, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona entered default against IPI for failure to comply with discovery orders and sanctions, and set a briefing schedule on damages and a hearing on damages and default judgment for July 24, 2020.

IPI then moved for an extension of 15 days to

comply with the court's order to produce all responsive materials from the approximately 53 boxes of paper documents, which was granted.

Then plaintiffs stipulated to amend the briefing schedule on damages and to reschedule the hearing to early August, which the court granted.

Dotts said since the eve of the entry of default to today, IPI has reviewed page-by-page and tendered over 10,000 documents to correct the events that led to default a month ago.

Dotts added that he has reviewed and produced thousands of bank statements and records.

In entering the default judgment against IPI during a show cause hearing last June 12, Manglona described IPI's noncompliance and delays in this lawsuit as "mindboggling and

"very frustrating."

In their petition for damages, the seven former workers, through counsels Aaron Halegua and Bruce Berline, are seeking a total of \$11.58 million in compensatory damages against IPI in connection with their lawsuit. They also request for a hearing for payment of attorneys' fees and court costs.

The judge will hold hearings as to how much will be awarded to the plaintiffs (former workers).

The default judgment would determine the amount of damages.

The plaintiffs—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Xiyang Du—are suing IPI, IPI former contractor, MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co., and MCC's subcontractor Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC over the alleged injuries they suffered during accidents at the worksite of IPI's resort/casino project in Garapan.

The plaintiffs are suing defendants for alleged forced labor in violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Re-authorization Act, forced labor in violation of the CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractor.

IPI, MCC and Gold Mantis have denied the plaintiffs' allegations.



Dotts

MOTHER

From Page 1

for the charge of child abuse or neglect issued by Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

The boy was pronounced dead last March 16 at 11:04am by Commonwealth Health Center's Dr. Rodney Klassen as a result of sudden cardiac arrest.

Dr. Phillip Dauterman, who conducted an autopsy last March 24, determined that the cause of death was from obstruction of the airway due to pharyngitis and tracheitis, contributed by peritonitis due to gastroenteritis.

Fitial and Laniyo were taken for their initial hearing before Govendo Monday. Govendo imposed a \$25,000 cash bail each on the defendants.

Fitial, through counsel Office of the Public Defender, asked the court yesterday to modify the bail and appoint her mother, Lourdes, as her third party custodian.

Govendo, however, denied Fitial's application to modify the bail and appoint her mother as her third party custodian.

Govendo said he does have a concern allowing Lourdes as third party custodian considering that she gave police a damaging statement against her daughter, Fitial.

The judge said the proposed third party custodian is a witness and involved in this matter.

Govendo, however, stated that he will entertain another bail modification application for a new proposed third party custodian.

At the hearing, assistant attorney

general Erin Toolan, counsel for the government, said Lourdes is not suitable to serve as third party custodian as she is a witness, who did not report the abuse.

Toolan said children coming to Lourdes' house are also witnesses in the case.

The Office of the Public Defender, counsel for Fitial, said what Lourdes allegedly saw is all assumptions.

Mark Scoggins, the court-appointed counsel for Laniyo, informed Govendo yesterday that he would file an application for bail modification.

Police said Dauterman in a follow-up interview stated that the child's illness was either caused by a bacterial or a viral infection and was so far advanced at the time he was brought to the CHC's emergency room last March 16.

Dauterman stated that the child was effectively dead when he was taken to the emergency room and would have presented obvious symptoms such as vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhea, fever, and sore throat.

The doctor said early medical intervention for the boy's illness would have been antibiotics, intravenous fluids, and intubation.

Dauterman said the child's symptoms would be obvious to any reasonable parent or guardian and a cause for concern.

He further stated that the boy's stomach was empty at the time of death and that it would take approximately 4-6 hours for a child of his age to clear their stomach.

The doctor explained that it means that the boy was either vomiting, not eating, or both.

Dauterman noted that both vomiting and not eating would be "readily

apparent to any parent."

He also noted that the boy had necrosis on parts of his intestines.

The doctor said the boy would have been struggling to breathe as his airway was very constricted.

A police detective and Department of Public Safety crime scene technicians who responded to CHC after being notified about the death last March 16, observed injuries on the boy's body consistent with physical abuse.

The detective and crime scene technicians noticed there were healed scratch marks above the boy's right buttocks area that extended downwards to the left leg.

They also observed healed scars on different parts of the child's face and a healing bruise mark in the center of his back along the spinal area.

There were stitch marks on the upper left forehead area and at the back of the head. The boy's lower lip appeared split in two although the wound was healed.

According to police detective Tamar Rios in her report, on March 16 at 10:05am, a police officer responded to a reported unresponsive boy on Atmayas Street in Koblerville.

Upon the officer's arrival at the house, a witness informed her that the boy was transported to CHC by an ambulance.

The officer proceeded to CHC, where she met with Fitial, who told her that her child had been ill and was given ibuprofen, which he vomited out, before he was observed to have stiffened.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

RELEASE

From Page 1

§17-23 - 2 CMC Section 5803(i): "Purposeful release of captive deer, especially domesticated progeny, into the wild is prohibited. Penalties for purposeful release of captive animals will be imposed and set by the director but will not exceed \$1,000 per animal. A person who has previously held a captive rearing permit and purposefully released animals into the wild will not be eligible to renew or obtain another permit."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, along with Youtuber Robert Arrington, who hosts *Deer Meat for Dinner*, released four deer, two females and two males, into Pagan. Before that, the video showed DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente helping Torres and Arrington capture the deer to release on Pagan.

"It may also be a violation of federal law," said Sablan. "The Endangered Species Act protects not only endangered and threatened species, but also the habitats in which they are found. Pagan is home to several federally listed endangered and threatened species. Sambar deer are a non-native species known to have destructive impacts on sensitive island ecosystems that are home to plants and wildlife found nowhere else on Earth."

Sablan added that DLNR has the authority to enforce the laws that protect the Commonwealth's natural resources.

"Problematically, it was the DLNR secretary that issued a permit for the release of Sambar deer on Pagan, an activity that clearly violates CNMI law and may also violate the federal Endangered Species Act," said Sablan. "What's wrong with releasing

Sambar deer on Pagan? Plenty."

"This was your [Torres] idea," said Arrington in his second YouTube video. "He calls me while I'm still in states, and said 'Hey Rob, typhoon wrecked a big area that we keep a lot of animals, there's four deer there, and we got to find a home. What do you think about taking these sambar deer and turning them loose on Pagan?'"

In the governor's news briefing yesterday, Torres said that along with the permit from DLNR, he spoke to Northern Islands Mayor Vicente Santos to get approval of releasing the four deer. Additionally, he said it was his idea, and not Arrington.

Although the permit was for Arrington and MVA's managing director Priscilla Iakopo, Torres said that he initiated it after bringing up the idea with Benavente.

"It was under my request... and part of the promotion," said Torres.

Controversy on burning on Pagan

According to Torres, Arrington reached out to Santos to ask if he could burn some parts that were infected with "big" centipedes.

"Rob went to the mayor and said, mayor there's a lot of insects, centipedes over there, certain part of that, so we can get rid of the insects," said Torres. "Mayor said yes and that's a good idea... make sure it is contained."

Torres said there was 10 to 15 people there at the site when Arrington had lit up the area. Additionally, Torres said that there was new grass growing before they left.

"It's not a wildfire that you see, it's not a wildfire that burnt any tree, in fact, I don't think there was one tree that was burnt down," said Torres.

WHATEVER

From Page 1

whatever they find, I'm here."

"When you look at this, I have discretions on how funds are being used. So, I am confident that the expenditures that was done, was according to the law, and in terms of the federal funds in regards to this pandemic, I am absolutely happy that they're looking into that," he added.

Early Monday, the House Special Committee on Fiscal Review of Executive Expenditures, formed to continue the oversight on all spending made by Torres, met to discuss subpoenaing agencies involved in some spending. Prior to this, last month, the House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding begun its review of documents related to awarded contracts and government

overtime payments related to the CNMI's COVID-19 emergency response.

The governor also defended all the departments, Cabinet members, and first-responders—even businesses, for taking the helm and doing the work, when the world first heard about the pandemic and left many people afraid, especially on the island.

"At the end of the day, are we safe here, or are we not? At the time that we've got the emergency, I think we should congratulate and thank those companies that stepped up and were able to provide us the necessary equipment, supplies, that no other country no other state can claim."

"Up to today you still have other states, other territories that are having issues. We don't have issues on supplies, we don't have issues on equipment. We have our alternate care sites ready to go. We wish we would

never use them. During those times, we need to do what we need to do to provide health care, and to provide our public health. And we did exactly that," he added.

Torres also highlighted the local government working with Federal Emergency Management Agency partners, as well as where the CNMI currently stands in the pandemic, which is, at just 33 cases.

"They have the authority to do their investigation, but at the end of the day, again, are we better off today in our health than any other states or territories? I'm confident that everyone here would answer that question, 'Yes, we are safe. We feel safe,'" Torres said, as he acknowledging the legislative body's authority to conduct the oversight.

"Now that that we feel safe, now they're going around [to do] some investigation. So, whatever it is, we're here to answer any questions."

Justices affirm conviction, sentence of ex-maintenance worker who sexually abused girl

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has affirmed the conviction and the 25-year prison sentence slapped against a former maintenance worker who sexually abused a 6-year-old girl.

The high court justices ruled that though attorney Jose P. Mafnas has already withdrawn as court-appointed counsel for defendant George Ramel Delos Santos, his Anders brief provided defendant with constitutionally adequate assistance on appeal.

An Anders brief refers to a procedure to reconcile conflict between the lawyer’s duty to zealously represent a client and the duty not to make frivolous arguments.

Neither Delos Santos nor subsequently-appointed counsel Shelli L. Neal has contested the finding that there is no colorable claim in this appeal, said the high court’s opinion issued Friday by Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and associate justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos.

A colorable claim refers to a claim that is reasonably supported by either law or policy, which, if accepted, may result in reversal.

“After an independent examination of the record, we

agree and therefore affirm his conviction and sentence,” the justices said.

Delos Santos was 55 years old when he sexually abused the child at a house in Chalan Kanoa in August 2016. He was arrested in September 2016 and subsequently pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

The Office of the Attorney General dropped additional charges of disturbing the peace and assault and battery as part of the deal.

Delos Santos was sentenced to 35 years of imprisonment with five years suspended. He is eligible for parole after serving eight years and was given 10 years of supervised probation.

Delos Santos is undocumented and may be subject to removal proceedings upon release, according to court documents.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja considered aggravating factors, including the use of pornography to “groom” the victim and the possible transmission of a sexually transmitted disease to the victim.

Naraja also considered mitigating factors, including that Delos Santos supports a family in the Philippines.

Delos Santos appealed, asking the high court to reverse his conviction and sentence. His trial counsel withdrew due to a conflict of interest and Mafnas was appointed.

Trial counsel indicated in his motion to withdraw that Delos Santos intended to challenge his guilty plea and might make a motion to withdraw his plea in the Superior Court.

In the high court’s ruling, the justices, however, pointed out that there is no record that Delos Santos made such a motion.

Mafnas filed an Anders brief, believing the appeal to be frivolous. He then withdrew as counsel due to a conflict of interest because he began employment with the Office of the Attorney General.

The justices said since Mafnas has already withdrawn as counsel, his motion to withdraw is moot.

The high court appointed Shelli L. Neal as Delos Santos’ current counsel.

The justice said Delos Santos and current counsel Neal did not file a supplemental Anders brief after being given notice to respond.

The justices said the sole issue is whether there are any non-frivolous grounds for appeal.

The justices said Mafnas’ Anders motion to withdraw

itself is moot, since they granted his separate motion to withdraw due to conflict of interest.

“Even so, his Anders brief satisfies Delos Santos’ constitutional right to appellate counsel,” the justices said.

The justices said they find that Mafnas provided Delos Santos with a diligent search of the record and that the appeal is indeed without merit.

First, the justices said, they address the threshold question of whether this appeal is barred by waiver.

“We conclude it is not, as the Commonwealth has not raised the issue,” they said.

The justice said they then address four arguments on the merits raised in the brief and find no colorable claim.

As part of their independent examination of the record, the justices said they further discuss the substantive reasonableness of the sentence, which was listed by trial counsel in the docketing statement as the basis of the appeal but not discussed by new counsel.

“Again, we find no colorable claim and therefore affirm the conviction,” they said.

On the waiver issue, the justices said the Commonwealth has not raised the issue of waiver in a motion to dismiss,

so defense counsel’s raising the issue does not bar their consideration of the merits of Delos Santos’ claims.

The justices said the victim’s mother testified at the sentencing hearing, and the victim testified to the crime to a detective.

The justices said though no corroboration was presented at the hearing, Delos Santos’ admission was not an extrajudicial statement.

The justices said there was sufficient factual basis in the record to support a guilty plea.

The justices said the sentence is not illegal since both the length of imprisonment and the length of probation fall within statutorily permis-

sible bounds.

The justices said Delos Santos cannot plausibly argue either that counsel was ineffective in not moving to withdraw before sentencing or that there is reason to grant a post-sentencing motion to withdraw his guilty plea.

Delos Santos stated at the change of plea hearing that counsel informed him of the potential immigration consequences of his plea.

The justices said there is no evidence that defendant’s counsel failed to inform him of immigration consequences.

The justices said Delos Santos has no colorable claim of ineffective assistance of counsel.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tinian ID card service on Wed., Thurs.

The Tinian Mayor’s Office will be offering its municipal identification card services to the public every Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm until such time that the government resumes its normal operating hours. We highly encourage the use of face masks, and the practice of social distancing while availing of this service. For more information, contact the Tinian Mayor’s Office at (670) 433-1800 or email reing10@gmail.com. **(PR)**

MLSC available by phone

The Marianas office of the Micronesia Legal Services Corp. office continues to be closed to public contact but its staff are available by telephone at 234-7729 or 234-6243. We are a private-non-profit organization serving low-income people in the CNMI; we do not charge fees for our legal services. **(PR)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 20-038

Opening Date: June 24, 2020
Closing Date: Until Filled

SUPERVISOR, WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATIONS (SAIPAN) (“OS”)

(Re-announcement Ref. #19-029 Rev)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a U.S. commonwealth in the western pacific. This position is as required by paragraph 11 of Stipulated Order Number One of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This position is sometimes referred to with a slightly different word combination, but the key term is “OS” (Operations Supervisor).

DUTIES: The OS will oversee the WWTP operations on all the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota or as applicable. The OS is required to understand, develop and implement a comprehensive sanitary collection system condition and assessment program as required under the Stipulated Order. Knowledge of asset management procedures and application of SCADA protocols are a plus. Understand and use of television and grouting systems for collection system maintenance and FOG (Fats, Oils and Grease) applications are expected. Assist and participate in strategic planning efforts, development of long term planning and visioning pursuits, and grant development applications. Additional duties and responsibilities are as directed and required.

SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

The incumbent of this position is under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water and Wastewater Division Manager or “DM” (also known as the Division Manager for Water and Wastewater) who reports directly to the Deputy Executive Director or “DED” (also known as the Deputy Director for Water and Wastewater).

LOCATION: Wastewater Division, **SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**
SALARY: \$56,439.00 to \$77,479.00 per annum, Exempt (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION: One (1).
CONTRACT: Two (2) years; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:
If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
Licensing Requirement: A current Grade III (Level 3) Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator’s Certificate and a Grade III (Level 3) Wastewater Collection Operator’s Certificate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or from an authorized alternative (such as from the NMI Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).
Education: Completion of two (2) years of college, with major courses in sciences, math, or other appropriate fields.
Experience: Three (3) to five (5) years of experience as a supervisor in a wastewater treatment plant utilizing activated sludge secondary treatment processes.
Skills: Demonstrate proven supervisory and communication skills.

Knowledge: Thorough knowledge of the operating principles and maintenance requirements of an activated sludge wastewater treatment plant that operates at a capacity of at least one and a half (1-1/2) mgd, including primary and secondary treatment processes, oxygen production, and sludge digestion and dewatering. Knowledge and pursuit of all regulatory requirements needed to meet treatment level specifications pertaining to island water quality guidelines. Familiarity and knowledge of best practices recommended by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and Water Environment Federation (WEF) in pursuit of a standard meeting a utility of Future classification.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:
Please submit (1) a cover letter, (2) a resume, (3) a list of references, and (4) a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:
1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:
Human Resource Office
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA
*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax “or” email “or” drop off your package.
2. Fax: 670-235-5131
3. Email: employmentapplications@cucgov.org
4. Drop Off: Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law. It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

RFQ20-GOV-084

Request for Qualification for Provisions of Architect/ Engineering Services 702 CIP Project Management Services

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold L. Palacios through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, “Commonwealth”) are soliciting sealed proposals from Architects and Engineers to provide Project Management Services for the Capital Improvement Projects funded under the 702 Covenant Funding.

Selected Architects and Engineers (Project Managers) will be retained as independent contractors under the General Provision of the Contracting Officer or his designee. Project Managers will act as agents of the expenditure authority on assigned Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within cost, time and legal requirements while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. Selected Project Managers will be retained of a one year contract with an option to renew for an additional year at the discretion of the Commonwealth. Project Managers include Architects, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical Engineers, Geotechnical and Environmental Consultant.

Compensation for Project Managers services will be determined based on the number of assigned projects including payments for approved staff and expenses. The Commonwealth will negotiate with the selected Project Managers to determine the scope of work and responsibilities. Individuals or firms selected as project managers would be precluded from providing any other services as a prime consultant advertised under the Capital Improvement Program.

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work (SOW) and submittal requirements at the Office of Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, beginning June 29, 2020 during working hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – (Monday through Friday, except on holiday). Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements.

Selection of individuals or firms for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations § 7070-30.3-305. To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI, and must hold a Certificate of Authorization, if applicable.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 or the latest version of Standard Forms. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of personnel or sub-consultants – 40%
2. Past Experience and Performance as a Project Manager – 40%
3. Project Methodology – 20%
4. Fee Proposal – 0%

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms or with all the firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Questions regarding this RFQ must be in writing and submitted to Ms. Nerissa Benavente at nerissa.cip@gmail.com or fax number 670-664-2408.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked “RFQ20-GOV-084”, **Project Management Services for the 702 CIP Projects**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and one (1) copy of the qualification statement and in electronic form (USB) must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on July 29, 2020**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply **no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST on July 29, 2020** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to amagofna@dof.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and one (1) copy of the sealed qualifications statement and in electronic (USB) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country **no later than July 29, 2020**, and mailed to the Director of Procurement and Supply at P.O. Box 510008 C.K. Saipan MP 96950 and must be received **no later than the close of business, August 07, 2020**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS

(To be part of Solicitation for Quotes, ITBs, RFPs and RFQs)

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).
- **Contingent Fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Francisco C. Aguon
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

JKPL launches Community Cultural Class

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library launched a free Community Cultural Class to more than 13 children and their parents. As part of the JKPL's 2020 Summer Reading Program, children had fun learning the basics on how to use the *talaya* with hands-on instruction sponsored by the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. Classes were taught by licensed *talayeros* Donovan Lizama and Peyton Lizama.

Library director Erlinda C. Naputi expressed her appreciation as Team JKPL welcomed 13 families who attended Saturday's class. She further stressed the importance of learning about our local culture and utilizing this opportunity to learn new skills.

For *talayero* Donovan Lizama, "Talaya has been an important part of my life since I was a kid, passed down from my grandfather to my father and to me. I have always enjoyed the connection we make with the ocean when we are able to feed our families from what we have caught. Especially during these pandemic times, I feel learning about the *talaya* and sharing this knowledge with our community is even more valuable."

"I love the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and I have so much fun!" stated Avalyn Mae Lizama of her experience at Saturday's class. Also present was Eusebio Borja who brought along a unique visitor—a deer a.k.a. Juan Binadu—to the JKPL's Community Cultural Class. "Biba, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library!" she said.



More than 13 children and their parents took part in the Community Cultural Class that is part of the JKPL's 2020 Summer Reading Program.

Check out our upcoming programs and services available at the JKPL—ukulele classes, community cultural classes, Early Literacy Story Hour, Children's Story Hour, Library Leads with Digital Skills Class, virtual learning resources, and so much more! Access free ebooks from Baker and Taylor Axis 360 or visit our website at www.cnmlib.org and check out our online card catalog. Registration to classes is required. Interested participants, please contact the JKPL by phone at 235-7315/7322/7323(READ) for more information or to register your family for these amazing learning opportunities! Our summer library hours are Tuesday to Thursday from

9:30am to 4:30pm and Friday to Saturday from 9:30am to 12noon. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays.

Thank you to all the families and children for participating in our programs and visiting the Joeten-Kiyu Public library this summer! Shout out to our community partners/sponsors, ETC donors, Office of the Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, Office of the Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, Office of the Mayor of Rota, Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguigan, Saipan Mayor's Office, Lady Diann Torres Foundation (for the amazing Elmo and Cookie Monster costumes), MAR-PAC for the Children's Library decor, AmeriCorps volunteers, Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu

Public Library, First Book Marketplace, CNMI Public School System, All Star Sporting Goods, Achugao Services, LLC, American Library Association, Anaks Holdings, LLC, AOK, LLC, Athlete's Foot of Saipan, Bridge Capital, LLC, CNMI Books and Resource Center, CNMI Public School System, Excelsior Marianas, LLC, FT Condo, LLC, Google, Public Library Association, Joeten Development INC., M.S. Villagomez, Inc., Marianas Acquisition dba IP&E, Coconut Capital, LLC, NMI Museum of History and Culture, Proa, LLC, Seven Leaves, LLC, Westview Property, LLC, Northern Marianas Humanities Council's Motherread/Fatherread



Children had fun learning the basics on how to use the talaya with hands-on instruction during Joeten-Kiyu Public's free Community Cultural Class.

CNMI, Commonwealth Library Council, and our hardworking Team Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. Programs and activities are made possible by generous Educational Tax Credit donors, Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, community partners, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services IMLS Grant # LSTA LS-00-19-0052-19, IMLS Grant # LSTA LS-01-19-0058-19, IMLS Grant# LSTA LS-246158-OLS-20, and IMLS Grant# LSTA LS-246573-OLS-20.

This project was made possible by support from the Northern Marianas Human-

ities Council, a non-profit private corporation with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the federal CARES Act. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this grant opportunity do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Community members, businesses and government agencies who would like to sponsor the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Summer Reading Program are encouraged to contact the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library at (670) 235-7315, 7322, or 7323 (READ). (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 15, 1999

DPH clamps down on roadside vendors • But vague laws and lack of manpower impede inspection

Amid reports of rampant violation of health and sanitation standards, the Department of Public Health has intensified its campaign against roadside vendors who have been operating on the island without the necessary health certificates. During the inspection of five roadside vendors last Tuesday, Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, accompanied by the staff from the Bureau of Environmental Health, ordered the confiscation of some 24 dozens of eggs which were among the food items sold in one of the pickup trucks due to serious health concern. The eggs were later on destroyed to prevent possible consumption. "They cannot be selling eggs that are not stored in a cool temperature because these might be contaminated with salmonella or any bacteria," he said. Selling fresh or frozen fish is alright as long as these are kept in a cold storage.

US Marshals to sink rusty Chinese vessels

The four rusty vessels that ferried hundreds of undocumented Chinese migrants will be disposed of by sinking them into the high

seas, US Marshal Jack Salas said yesterday. The vessels, docked at San Jose Harbor on Tinian, have been turned over by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to the US Marshal Service as they were considered "seized properties." The vessels, which were intercepted by the US Coast Guard on separate occasions earlier this year, carried over 500 Chinese migrants who were intending to enter Guam illegally. They were later held at Tinian's "tent city."

July 15, 2004

Manhunt on for 159 ex-workers

Beginning today, immigration officers and operatives of the Attorney General's Investigative Unit will conduct a manhunt for some 159 former garment workers who remain unlawfully in the CNMI after the settlement of their class action lawsuit at the U.S. District Court. None of these alien workers voluntarily surrendered to the Immigration Division until yesterday—the deadline set by the Attorney General's Office for these workers to avail of the chance to voluntarily leave the CNMI. Once an alien is deported, he may no longer return to the islands. Attorney general Pamela Brown disclosed these yesterday, saying that the government is intensifying its enforcement of the CNMI's immigration laws.

Justices deny appeal of convicted kidnapper-rapist

The Supreme Court of the Northern Marianas Islands denied Tuesday the appeal of convicted kidnapper and rapist Jose O. Rabauliman, affirming his conviction and subsequent sentencing. In an opinion released by Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Assistant Justices Alexandro C. Castro and John A. Manglo-

na, they ruled that after a review of the trial, Rabauliman's basis of appeal was not enough to overturn the ruling of the Superior Court. Rabauliman's claim of being convicted and sentenced based upon the improper statements made by the prosecutor during closing arguments and rebuttal failed to sway the panel but the justices conceded that the statements of the Assistant Attorney General Kevin A. Lynch were "foul and improper."

July 15, 2005

Man electrocuted in CUC project

A man working on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power lines was electrocuted when a boom truck he was on touched a live wire in Garapan. Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David said Angel Pagangan suffered serious injuries from second-degree burns. He said Pagangan was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center after the incident Tuesday. David said Pagangan, a Filipino worker of Kimco Corp., was inside the bucket of a boom truck when the incident happened. Information gathered by police showed that Kimco's crew was working on burying power lines underground in Western Garapan—a CUC project.

Court revokes release of an alleged drug peddler

The Superior Court has revoked the release of a suspected drug peddler who had volunteered to become a confidential police informant. Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo set bail for 40-year-old Raymond DeLeon Guerrero King at \$30,000. The judge imposed a daily curfew from 7pm to 6am as a condition of the bail. King faces charges of possession and trafficking of methamphetamine hydrochloride or 'ice.'

Ex-owner of 2 companies found no claim vs estate of late attorney Arriola

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has ruled that a former owner of two companies does not have a claim against the estate of the late lawyer Edward Camacho Arriola, who had purchased the firms (companies) when he was still alive.

In an order issued Friday, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho said because Joseph Cabrera Guerrero does not have a claim, the court finds that he is therefore, not a creditor and cannot participate in the Arriola estate's probate action.

Camacho said the evidence was overwhelming that although Guerrero wanted Arriola to assume his liabilities and indemnify him, there was no agreement by Arriola to do so.

"Without an agreement, there can be no breach and, therefore, Guerrero has no claim against the estate," the judge pointed out.

Attorneys Colin M. Thompson and Michael W. Dotts served as counsel for Arriola estate's executrix Frances Arriola. Frances is the wife of the late attorney Arriola. George Lloyd Hasselback appeared as counsel for Guerrero.

According to court records, Guerrero's claim is essentially that the decedent, Arriola, breached an agreement to pay certain of Guerrero's personal liabilities owed to third-parties.

Guerrero alleges that in late 2014 when Arriola purchased two companies from Guerrero, Arriola promised or agreed to assume Guerrero's personal liabilities that arose out of personal guarantees Guerrero had given to secure financing for the companies.

Guerrero alleged that Arriola had refused to pay those third parties while he was alive.

After Arriola died on May 26, 2017 (two and a half years after the companies were sold to Arriola), Guerrero filed a notice of his claim in this probate action.

In his order Friday, Camacho said Guerrero's notice was filed more than 88 days after the first publication of notice to creditors, 18 days after the cut off deadline.

At the Nov. 14, 2019 evidentiary hearing, Guerrero testified and took the position that he timely presented his claim because he was a known creditor.

Guerrero said as a known creditor, he was entitled to personal notice within 20 days of the executor's appointment.

Estate executrix Frances Arriola (Frances) testified that Guerrero had no claim against the estate, and that assuming he had a claim, she did not

know he had a claim.

Frances took the position that when Guerrero failed to file the claim by the 60-day deadline, his claim was forever barred.

In his ruling, Camacho found the testimony of Frances credible because her testimony is consistent with the documentations received as evidence.

Camacho found the testimony of Guerrero not credible because his testimony is contradicted by the documentations received as evidence.

Camacho said based on the admitted evidence and testimony at the evidentiary hearing, he finds that in 2009, Guerrero and Joseph Cabrera Santos both co-founded and were member managers of two limited liability companies, St. Joseph's Medical Transport LLC, an ambulance company, and Precision Medical Imaging LLC, an imaging company.

St. Joseph's operated in Guam. Precision operated on Saipan.

In March 2014, St. Joseph's began having financial difficulty. In the following months, Precision also started to have financial difficulty.

The LLCs could not pay their rent, salaries, taxes, and other expenses and borrowed money from First Hawaiian Bank to meet these expenses.

In order to obtain financing for the LLCs, the bank had required that Guerrero personally guarantee loans for equipment, operating expenses, and credit cards and other lines of credit.

The LLCs were not able to pay the loans that Guerrero had guaranteed. In August 2014, Precision received a demand letter from the bank. Guerrero and Santos then began searching for an investor or a source of funds to support the failing LLCs.

On Oct. 23, 2014, Guerrero and Santos signed a document transferring their interests in Precision to Arriola. The document does not provide for Arriola assuming the personal liabilities of Guerrero, or in any way indemnify Guerrero

about his personal guarantees be called on.

Guerrero entered into the agreement transferring the ownership of Precision to Arriola without ever meeting with Arriola or discussing the transaction.

On Dec. 4, 2014, Guerrero sold his interests in St. Joseph's to Santos, who later sold this interest to Arriola on Dec. 19, 2014 in an agreement.

Guerrero understood that the bank would go after him personally if St. Joseph's assets were not sufficient to cover its debts.

The documents that trans-

ferred ownership of Precision and St. Joseph's to Arriola did not provide that Arriola assume Guerrero's personal liability or that Arriola would indemnify Guerrero from any liability.

A couple of months after Arriola acquired the two LLCs, Guerrero and Frances met at the Mango Six Café where Guerrero had asked Frances to ask her husband Arriola to reconsider assuming the liabilities.

When Frances told her husband about it, Arriola refused, replying to her that everything

was already signed.

Beginning in October 2014, Frances was in charge of the financial matters of the LLCs and in possession of the transfer agreements and other records.

Both LLCs were past due on their expenses when Arriola acquired them, and the lawyer invested his own cash exceeding \$400,000.

In April 2015, in a phone call, Arriola expressly told Guerrero that he would not assume Guerrero's personal liability, Guerrero then threatened to sue Arriola.

However, on May 29, 2015,

Guerrero signed a new document with the bank consenting to the transfer of St. Joseph's to Arriola to satisfy the bank.

This consent does not provide for Arriola to assume Guerrero's liabilities.

In November 2015, Guerrero received a notice of default for a St. Joseph's loan from the bank with a Dec. 15, 2015 deadline.

On Dec. 1, 2015, Guerrero received a message from Arriola repeating that he had not assumed Guerrero's personal liability.

Arriola died on May 26, 2017.

VINCENT J. SEMAN, CNMI Bar No. F-0361
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E-mail: vjseman@semanlaw.com
Attorney for: Petitioner Eldin J. Maratita

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BRIGIDA NAKATSUKASA MARATITA, Deceased

PROBATE CASE NO. 20-0152-CV
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO PROBATE and NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Date: August 6, 2020
Time: 10:00 am
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE BRIGIDA NAKATSUKASA MARATITA OR OF HER ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Eldin J. Maratita, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Brigida Nakatsukasa Maratita, "Decedent". The attorney for Petitioner is Vincent J. Seman, Esq., whose address is JET Building, Suite 204, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, PO Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Petitioner is scheduled to be heard on August 6, 2020 at 10:00am, at Supreme Court Courtroom, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to Vincent J. Seman, Esq., at his address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 10 July 2020.
By: Judge Joseph Norita Camacho

VINCENT J. SEMAN, CNMI Bar No. F-0361
Seman Law Offices, LLC
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 323-2115
E-mail: vjseman@semanlaw.com

Attorney for: Plaintiff
BANKPACIFIC, LTD.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff, vs. ESTEBAN C. PALOMERO and BARBARA S. PALOMERO, AKA BARBARA SOMOL, Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-198C
NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order of Sale issued by the Court in this matter on June 15, 2020, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Lot No. 011 G 1080, containing an area of 815 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 20, dated December 3, 1993, the description therein incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on July 24, 2020, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204, P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: June 29, 2020.

SEMAN LAW OFFICES, LLC

By: /s/ Vincent J. Seman
Vincent J. Seman, F-0361
Attorney for Plaintiff

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-018

SUBMISSION DATE: August 4, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Repair of the DPW Roads and Grounds Traffic Branch Office Lower Base, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 21, 2020, 9:00 a.m.** local time at **DPW Roads and Grounds Lower Base**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 30, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER RENOVATIONS
Project No. CPA-SA-004-17

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Air Traffic Control Tower Renovations, No. CPA-SA-004-17, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this RFQ shall be addressed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager and delivered to the CPA Administration office, faxed to (670) 234-5962, or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than **Wednesday, July 29, 2020, 5:00 p.m.** local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications. Qualification statements shall be submitted by no later than **5:00 p.m., MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020 (CHST)** to the office of the Executive Director. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 14, 2020

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- Meeting Call to Order
- Determination of Quorum
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of Minutes (06/24/2020)
- Public Comments
- Chairperson's Report
- Director's Report
- Investigator's Report
- Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - Governor's Office
 - Legislature
- Old Business
- New Business
- Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - New Application
 - Pasatiempo (Physician) - Update
 - Seby (Temporary Physician) - Update
 - Wells Pharmacy Network, LLC (For Executive Session)
 - Renewal Applications
- Miscellaneous Business
- Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- Announcements
 - Next Meeting Date
 - Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

**Brilliant Star
Montessori School
Teacher Aide
needed August, 2020**

Duties are to assist the lead teacher, preparing curriculum materials as directed, setting up and cleaning up each day. Also to supervise children using materials as directed. Mandarin and English speaking preferred. Previous knowledge of Montessori pedagogy and experience working with young children a plus. U.S. citizens and/or permanent residents are preferred.

Contact Steven Beyer at
principal@brilliantstar.org.

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Trump administration turns international students into political pawns with ICE ruling

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement intends to bar international college students from entering the country—or staying in it, if already here—if their scheduled fall course load is entirely online, forcing more than 1 million students to choose between their health and their education, according to a rule proposed last week.

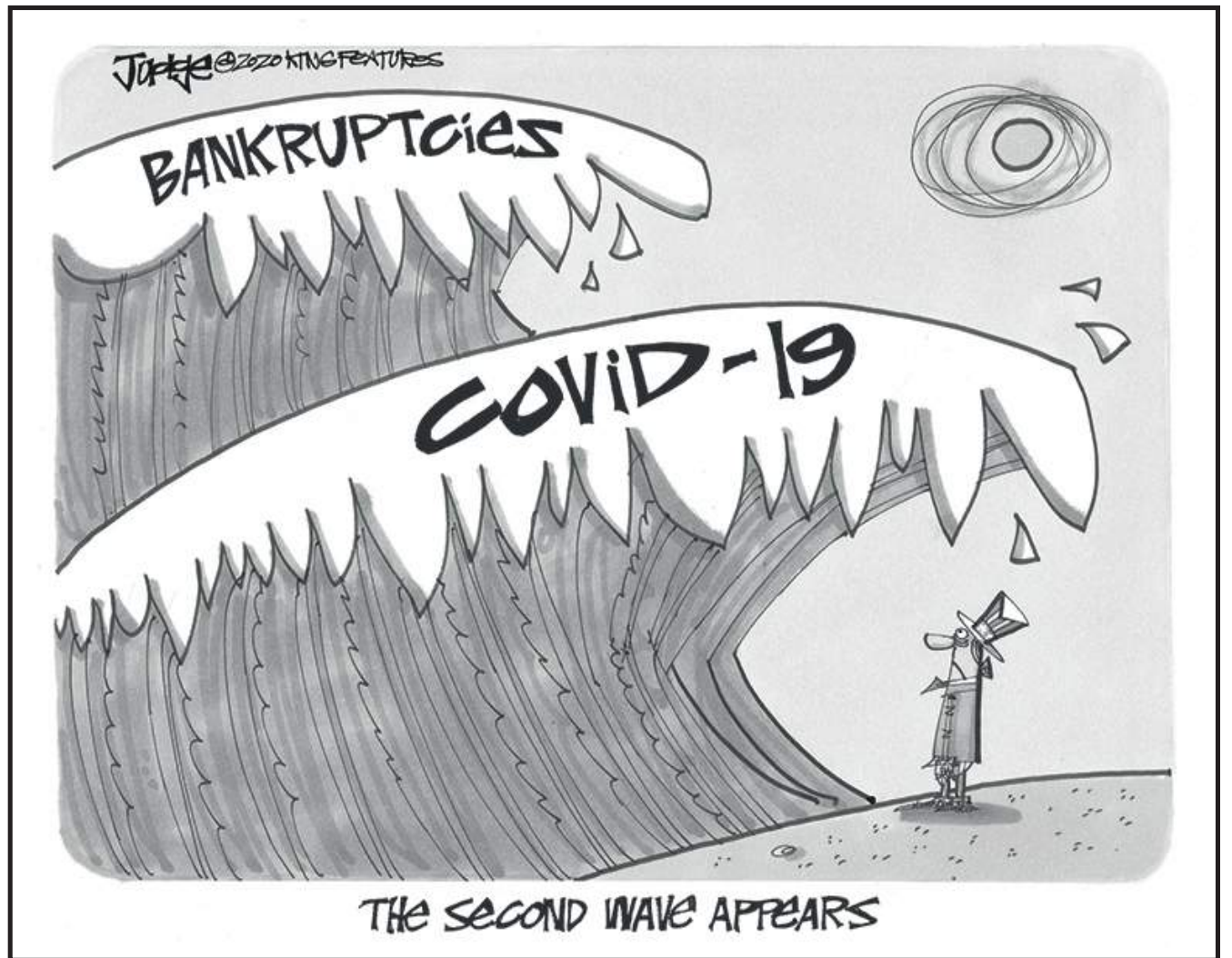
It was a double whammy from the Trump administration: both xenophobic in its false suggestion that the greatest coronavirus threat is coming from outside our borders, and dismissive of COVID-19 dangers in seeking to compel colleges and universities with large international student populations to reopen their campuses for financial reasons, even as virus cases hit record levels and deaths rise in nearly every corner of the country.

Johns Hopkins University, which has nearly 5,000 international students, filed a lawsuit in federal court Friday to block the move, saying it “completely upended” the university’s academic planning. “The administration’s decision is gratuitous, cruel, and inimical to what this country is about,” JHU President Ronald J. Daniels said in a statement, calling the directive both “illegal and unconstitutional” and contrary to “the educational freedoms and humanitarian values that animate higher education” in America. Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology earlier filed similar lawsuits, and the University System of Maryland followed Monday, joining what is now a multistate effort. Chancellor Jay A. Perman said the ICE proposal is “capricious and callous,” undermines campus social distancing efforts and punishes international students without cause.

We expect the courts to swiftly block implementation of the rule and urge others to join the opposition in the hopes it will pressure ICE to back off on its deportation threats, which appear to be grounded more in politics than public health. During the spring and summer semesters, ICE allowed international students to take more online classes than normally allowed under federal rule, pulling the exemption only now, as President Donald Trump makes a push for on-campus education at all levels, from pre-K to graduate school.

But the pandemic rages on, with the situation worsening in many areas throughout America. Last week, five states recorded record deaths related to COVID-19, and over the weekend, Florida set a record for cases in a single day with

See TRUMP on Next Page



McConnell continues to be Trump’s biggest enabler

Fate has been unkind to the United States. The nation is grappling simultaneously with a pandemic that has claimed the lives of more than 136,000; the most severe economic downturn since the Great Depression; and mind-numbing police brutality, which has generated the largest outpouring of grief and anger against systemic racism in memory.

Perhaps America’s greatest misfortune is that these crises have emerged at a time when its leadership is maliciously dedicated to worsening them.

Donald Trump’s biggest enabler is Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. McConnell’s response to Trump’s overt appeals to racism? He “is not a racist.”

McConnell’s response to Trump’s failure to contain COVID-19? “President Obama should have kept his mouth shut” and not criticized Trump.

McConnell’s take on Trump’s multiple attacks on the rule of law, including Friday’s commutation of former Trump campaign aide Roger Stone’s prison sentence? Utter silence.

McConnell has been a vocal opponent of the HEROES Act — passed by the House in May to help Americans survive the pandemic and fortify the upcoming election — calling it a “liberal wish list.” In fact, it’s a necessary agenda.

McConnell and his fellow Senate Republicans don’t want to extend the bill’s extra-\$600-a-week unemployment benefits, which were enacted in March but are due to expire on July 31. They argue that the benefits are higher than what low-income workers are likely to earn on the job, so the money is a disincentive to work.

Rubbish. Few jobs are available to low-income workers, and most are in so-called “essential” work rife with COVID-19. Besides, the U.S. economy can’t be revived unless people have extra money in their pockets to buy goods and services. Even before the pandemic, nearly 80% of Americans lived paycheck to paycheck. Now, many are desperate, as revealed by lengthening food lines and growing delinquencies in rent payments.

Yet McConnell and his ilk are happy to give away trillions of dollars in bailouts to Wall Street bankers and corporate executives. They quietly inserted into the last COVID relief bill a \$170 billion windfall to Jared Kushner and other real estate moguls. Another \$454 billion went to backing up a Federal Reserve program that benefits big business by buying up debt.

And although that bill was also intended to help small busi-

By **ROBERT B. REICH**

Tribune News Service

Former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich is a professor of public policy at the University of California at Berkeley and the author of *Aftershock: The Next Economy and America’s Future*. He blogs at www.robertreich.org.



nesses, lobbyists connected to Trump (including current donors and fundraisers for his re-election) helped their clients rake in more than \$10 billion, while an estimated 90% of small businesses owned by people of color and women got nothing.

McConnell’s response? He’s willing to consider more aid to “small business.”

But McConnell urges lawmakers to be “cautious,” warning that “the amount of debt that we’re adding up is a matter of genuine concern.” He seems to forget the \$1.9 trillion tax cut he engineered in December 2017 for big corporations and the super-rich. Is he willing to roll it back to provide more funding for Americans in need?

The inept and overwhelmingly corrupt reign of Trump and McConnell will come to an end next January if enough Americans vote this November.

But will enough people vote during a pandemic?

The HEROES Act provides \$3.6 billion for states to expand mail-in and early voting, yet McConnell isn’t interested. He’s well aware that high voter turnout increases the likelihood that Republicans will be booted out. (Which is also why Trump is claiming, with no evidence, that voting by mail will result in widespread voter fraud.)

If there is another coronavirus bill, differences between McConnell and the House will have to be resolved within two weeks after Congress returns from recess on July 20.

McConnell says his priority will be to shield businesses from COVID-related lawsuits by customers and employees who have contracted the virus.

If he had an ounce of concern for the nation, his priority would be to shield Americans from the ravages of COVID and American democracy from the ravages of Trump.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

More statues won't solve our statue problem

We already have a statue problem. President Donald Trump's solution to the problem is... more statues. During his July 3 Mount Rushmore speech, the president announced his signing of an executive order proposing the creation of a statuary park, the National Garden of American Heroes.

Is this a serious proposal or is it an ad hoc gambit meant merely to defuse the current wave of statue toppling?

The executive order seems serious enough. It establishes a large "Interagency Task Force for Building and Rebuilding Monuments to American Heroes." The task force will be chaired by the interior secretary and is required, within 60 days, to propose options for the National Garden, including potential locations. The order directs that the National Garden "should be open for public access" prior to July 4, 2026.

On the other hand, the order doesn't actually provide resources for a National Garden. In fact, the task force is directed to find ways to use already existing appropriations to fund such a park, and it is directed to encourage states, businesses, individuals and civic and religious organizations to donate or loan already existing statues.

Thus, the statuary population of the National Garden could be defined by whoever wants to get rid of statues they don't want anymore. Otherwise, potential inductees to the statuary park are almost unlimited. The executive order's list of who might make the cut is staggeringly long.

At least three times the order suggests the inclusion of "Former Presidents of the United States." By July 2026, there will be at least 45 to choose from. One wonders if Trump has any particular president in mind. And does that explain the emphatic directive that "All statues... should be lifelike or realistic representations... not abstract or modernist?"

Who else might be included for statuary commemoration?

Abolitionists, underground railroaders, scientists and inventors, entrepreneurs, police officers killed in the line of duty, astronauts, authors, intellectuals, advocates for the poor and "opponents of national or international socialism."

If it's not already clear how difficult picking and choosing will be, the executive order gets down to specifics. It directs that the National Garden include a baseline of 31 American heroes, starting with those we might expect: Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, John Adams, Abraham Lincoln.

Then the list of the requisite 31 heroes gets a little puzzling. It includes five Blacks and eight women. But no Hispanics? No Asians or Jews? No Native Americans? Sitting Bull? Chief Joseph? Tonto?

Further, no one has bothered to hide an obvious political orientation in the list of the essential 31. Antonin Scalia but not Thurgood Marshall? Ronald Reagan (of course) but not Franklin Roosevelt?

And what about Billy Graham, an American "hero" who for most of his long life contended that homosexuality is a "sinister form of perversion"?

In addition to the 31 on the essential list, the executive order specifies several American heroes who weren't actually Americans: Christopher Columbus, Marquis de La Fayette and Junipero Serra.

Who was Junipero Serra? In 1749 Serra, a Spaniard, landed in Veracruz, and over the course of three decades he established a string of missions from Mexico into California, domesticating and Catholicizing the Indians along the way. Reputedly, his pastoral style was not always gentle.

In 1752, Serra wrangled an appointment as a regional Inquisitor (that's Spanish Inquisition), which gave him the authority to seek out and punish demon-worshippers, who, he said, fly through the air at night and make sacrifices to demons in the guise of young goats.

Serra was into flagellation, and not just of the Indians. He

By **JOHN M. CRISP**

Tribune News Service



John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcol-umns@gmail.com.the United States.

regularly whipped himself with chains, beat himself with large stones and, when he preached about hellfire, he would sear himself in the pulpit with a candle flame.

What would the decorous, rational, buttoned-up John Adams say about being stuck in the same statuary park with a deranged zealot like Serra?

Fortunately, the idea of a National Garden sounds more like a campaign ploy than a serious proposal. Let's hope so. We can't even agree on the statues that we already have, much less a passel of new ones.

TRUMP

From Page 8

15,299.

"It is really serious, the country is not in a good place in respect to COVID right now," Dr. Tom Inglesby, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and an adviser to Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, told "Fox News Sunday," saying that the U.S. has lost sight of the basics and lost its urgency in the battle against coronavirus.

But what are we to expect when President Trump is falsely claiming that "The Mortality Rate for the China Virus in the U.S. is just about the LOWEST IN THE WORLD" and aggressively pushing to reopen the country? The messages to the public are, to say the least, mixed.

The decision from ICE comes as many universities are still weighing their options for the fall. Roughly 8% of American colleges and universities say they are planning for fully online instruction in the fall, including the entire California State University System and Harvard. They now must consider whether they will lose considerable portions of their student population to this rule. Higher education institutions, too, have faced significant budget cuts because of coronavirus and possible enrollment drops in the fall. International students contribute more than \$125 million annually in tuition, housing, and fees to the University System of Maryland, Chancellor Perman said, and nearly \$800 million to the state's economy. Such students might be inclined to transfer to universities in their home countries due to the new restrictions or to other schools, though at this point, that may be impossible. Transfer deadlines for most universities have long passed.

Faculty members have gotten creative in trying to fight back, suggesting the creation of independent study courses that are in-person, but still socially distant. One Twitter thread among university professors — including someone from the University of Maryland, College Park — promised to host in-person courses where international students could stand 6 feet from instructors while participating. More than 12% of UMD's student population is made up of international students. (Perhaps now would be a good time for the school to reconsider a controversial contract it maintains with ICE to provide the agency "cultural competency and counterterrorism" training).

We appreciate their ingenuity, but would prefer the proposed rule be removed altogether, rather than bent. International students enrich the campus experience for all by promoting diversity of thought, language and culture and by challenging others to think more globally. It's time they were recognized for their contributions, and their place in this country protected, rather than abused as a political pawn.

Nuclear threat still looms

On July 16, 1945, at around 5:30 a.m., 11-year-old Henry Herrera was outside his home in Tularosa, New Mexico, helping his father work on the radiator of their truck, when he saw a blinding flash of light. He thought he was witnessing the end of the world. In fact, he was witnessing the first ever use of a nuclear weapon — the Trinity nuclear test.

A few weeks later, on Aug. 6 and 9, the newly tested weapons were used on Japan, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing 150,000 to 246,000 innocent people. In 1946, nuclear testing began in the Marshall Islands; it would continue there until 1958, and in the United States until 1992. The production of these weapons, with its own harmful consequences, continues today. Even worse, Congress recently voted to fund expansion of the nation's nuclear weapons program.

In a cruel twist of fate, July 16 is a double nuclear anniversary for New Mexico. On that day in 1979, a dam holding back radioactive waste at the Church Rock uranium mill broke, releasing 1,100 tons of uranium waste and 94 million gallons of radioactive water into the Rio Puerco, across three Navajo Nation chapters, and into Arizona. After both July 16 events, no health studies or medical resources were provided for residents, leaving those affected to battle the resulting illnesses and deaths alone. Last summer, after marking these anniversaries, my colleagues and I felt a sense of anti-climax. Something was missing. Perhaps after so long, we had become numb in the face of this history of death.

As we approached the 75th anniversary of the fateful bombings of Japan, we decided we needed to do more.

To begin, we reached out to our partners in Japan, and learned an important lesson. The survivors of the bombings, known as hibakusha, generally focus on messages of hope and resiliency, in pursuit of opportunities to build a peaceful world. They share their haunting memories of the bombings, but then they look forward and demand progress.

We also looked to the survivors of nuclear weapons activities here at home. Estimates range from tens of thousands to hundreds

By **LILLY ADAMS**

Tribune News Service



Lilly Adams, a consultant with the Union of Concerned Scientists' Global Security Program, helped organize a national coalition commemorating the 75th anniversary of the first uses of nuclear weapons. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.

of thousands of people in the United States and in the Marshall Islands that have been sickened and killed due to nuclear weapons testing, uranium mining and nuclear-weapons production.

Despite the distances between them—in time, place and culture—the stories of many of these survivors are the same. A flash of blinding light, the feeling the world was ending. Falling dust and powder—like snow—that sickened people and would lead, eventually, to cancers. Secrecy and neglect shrouded their experiences for decades.

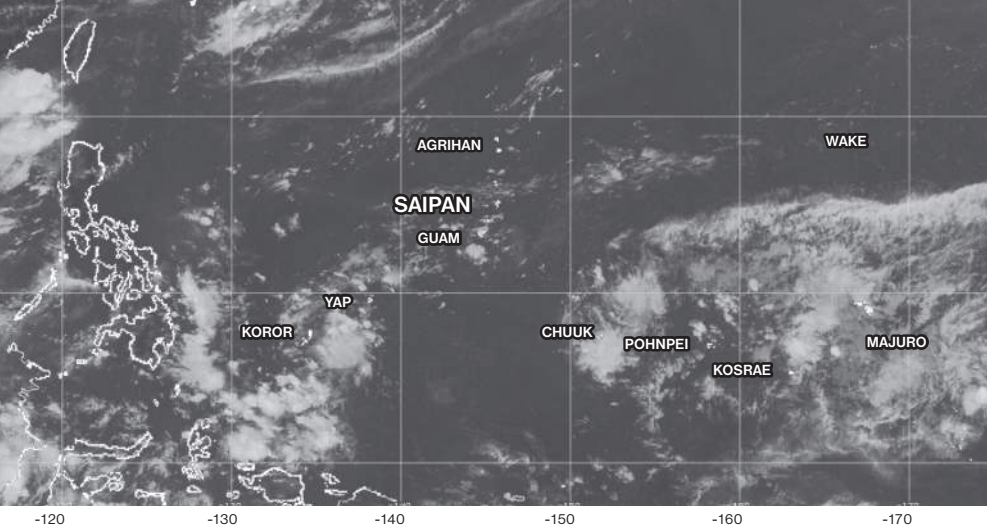
United by these tragedies, now most impacted communities have the same ultimate goals: ensuring these weapons are never used again, and that they are one day eliminated.

With these goals in mind, our national coalition is gathering virtually on Aug. 6 and 9, the anniversaries of the bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The event will feature presentations from many of the 150 groups that have joined the effort so far. We hope readers will join us to learn more and hear from the people who have been impacted and are fighting for change.

Seventy-five years after these bombings, nuclear weapons are still here, continuing to threaten every person on earth. But the survivors are still here, too. And in a time of separation and mourning, this is a chance to stand in solidarity with communities around the world that are calling for peace.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
90°	78°	89°	79°	90°	79°	90°	79°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Skies are mostly cloudy over the Marianas this morning with isolated showers, and isolated brief thunderstorms popping up here and there. Moderate east winds are present, and the buoys are indicating seas around 3.5 feet at Tanapag and Ritidian, and about 4.2 feet at Ipan. Monday’s evening sounding showed just under 2 inches of precipitable water, and satellite-derived measurements show around 2 inches of PW for the Marianas the last several hours.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Rain	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Rain	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:11 AM	2:00 PM	-
Thursday	1:50 AM	2:50 PM	-
Friday	2:32 AM	3:43 PM	-
Saturday	3:19 AM	4:38 PM	-
Sunday	4:11 AM	5:35 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	57° / 54°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	91° / 73°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	81° / 62°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	93° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 39°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	80° / 70°	
Osaka	Showers	97° / 81°	
Paris	Cloudy	72° / 57°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	75° / 66°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	94° / 74°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	84° / 54°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 66°	
Tokyo	Showers	73° / 66°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	93° / 74°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:37 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.90	
10:00 AM	LOW TIDE	0.56	
4:47 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.56	
9:26 PM	LOW TIDE	1.23	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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Source: Office of the Governor

Business



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Natural Nail Spa is located along Middle Road across Bank of Hawaii and beside Na Ka Oi.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left: Natural Nail Spa owners Rhea Backe, Abigail Parker, and Merle Costelo-Bryd with their staff.

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Natural Nail Spa located along Middle Road

(beside Na ka Oi) maybe operating its business in a different way, but they still aim to spoil and pamper clients who come and indulge in their relaxing treatments.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Have a relaxing day at Natural Nail Spa's spacious area for manicure, pedicure, and foot massage.

Get ready to get pampered at *Natural Nail Spa*

According to owner Merle Costelo-Bryd, they temporarily closed mid-March and reopened on May 1 and accepted clients by appointments only. "We only offered nail and hair service strictly by appointment which was new because we actually accommodate walk-in clients prior to the pandemic. When the busi-

ness mandate changed and the allowed number of occupancy increased in our premises, we offered all the services including body massage, body treatments, and walk-in clients again," she said.

"We love to give service and treatments to our regular and new clients and have safety protocols to keep clients and

employees safe at the salon. We take our client's temperature upon entry and ask them to wash their hands or sanitize. We require everyone to wear mask the whole time they are in the spa. We take our employees' temperature too when they come to work and our staff were provided face masks, face shields, and gloves to protect

themselves," she added.

"As extra service to our clients and the community, we accommodate clients who after work want to take a shower at the spa before they go home to their family. We sanitize and disinfect all tables and chairs used after each client and after work, we air out the whole place while we clean and sanitize to get ready for the next day," Costelo-Bryd said.

Natural Nail Spa currently doesn't have an ongoing promo but they welcome loyal customers that have privilege cards. "Get a stamp for every \$20 spent and after 20 stamps they get free classic manicure and pedicure or 90-minute massage. My staff and I are so thankful for all our clients for their continued support, patience, and cooperation on following our safety protocols," Costelo-Bryd said.

"I hope everyone will continue to stay safe and pray that this pandemic will be over soon," she added.

Natural Nail Spa is open Monday to Sunday except Wednesday from 10am to 7pm. Walk-ins are welcome and for appointments, call (670) 233-6245 or send them a message on Facebook or Instagram.

US budget deficit hits all-time high of \$864B in June

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal government incurred the biggest monthly budget deficit in history in June as spending on programs to combat the coronavirus recession exploded while millions of job losses cut into tax revenues.

The Treasury Department reported Monday that the deficit hit \$864 billion last month, an amount of red ink that surpasses most annual deficits in the nation's history and is above the previous monthly deficit record of \$738 billion in April. That amount was also tied to the trillions of dollars Congress has provided to cushion the impact of the widespread shutdowns that occurred in an effort to limit the spread of the viral pandemic.

For the first nine months of this budget year, which be-

gan Oct. 1, the deficit totals \$2.74 trillion, also a record for that period. That puts the country well on the way to hitting the \$3.7 trillion deficit for the whole year that has been forecast by the Congressional Budget Office.

That total would surpass the previous annual record of \$1.4 trillion set in 2009 when the government was spending heavily to lift the country out of the recession caused by the 2008 financial crisis.

The June deficit was driven higher by spending on various government relief programs such as an extra \$600 per week in expanded unemployment benefits and a Paycheck Protection Program that provided support to businesses to keep workers on their payrolls.

The report showed that the cost of the Paycheck Protec-

tion Program in June was \$511 billion. That reflected a charge to the government for all the bank loans made under the program even though the government will not actually have to pay out funds until the banks determine whether the businesses met the criteria for having the loans forgiven. Those requirements include spending at least 60% of the loan amount on worker pay with the other 40% going to overhead costs such as rent and utilities.

Another reason for the surge in the June deficit was the government's decision to delay tax payments this year until July 15. That decision meant that quarterly payments made by individual taxpayers and corporations will not be due until July 15 this year rather than June.

California shuts bars, indoor dining and most gyms, churches

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Bars and inside restaurant dining are banned throughout California, while indoor religious services, gyms and hair and nail salons are again off-limits in most of the state, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday in issuing a sweeping set of closures to head off surging coronavirus cases and hospitalizations.

The order is part of the state's new strategy to control the spread of the virus by focusing on limiting indoor activities to reflect public health officials' evolving understanding of how the virus spreads.

Earlier in the pandemic California closed beaches, campgrounds and state parks as it sought to limit interactions of people from different households. But as data showed the virus was most likely to be transmitted indoors, the New-

som administration began modifying public health orders, including ordering people to wear face coverings and leaving outdoor activities alone.

Newsom has repeatedly implored people to refrain from social gatherings and he expressed frustration that many aren't following the guidance.

"COVID-19 is not going away anytime soon, until there is a vaccine and or an effective therapy," Newsom said. "Limit your mixing with people outside of your household. It's just common sense, but the data suggests not everyone is practicing common sense."

The city of Los Angeles immediately implemented the mandated shutdowns and Mayor Eric Garcetti said he wouldn't hesitate to go further.

Earlier this month the city created a color-coded system to designate the threat level from

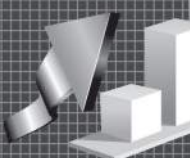
the virus and corresponding shutdowns. Rising numbers of cases and hospitalizations now have it at orange—the second-highest designation, when people are to minimize all contact with anyone outside their household.

"Red is when everything shuts down again -- everything, to our strictest level. And I do want to warn people that we're close to that," Garcetti said.

Newsom's move faced immediate resistance from religious groups and business organizations. Fred Jones, attorney for the Professional Beauty Federation of California, suggested many hair salons may not comply with the order.

He said there is "no evidence that a single contagion has been spread in a salon since we've been allowed to reopen."

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

26,085.80
+10.50
0.040%

S&P

3,155.22
-29.82
0.94%

NASDAQ

10,390.84
-226.60
2.13%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4403
British Pound	0.7969
Canadian Dollar	1.3619
Chinese Yuan	6.9002
Euro	0.8817

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7510
Indian Rupee	74.7789
Japanese Yen	107.1680
Malaysian Ringgit	4.2241
New Zealand Dollar	1.5296
Philippine Peso	48.5692

Russian Ruble	69.8265
Singapore Dollar	1.3929
South Korean Won	1180.93
Swiss Franc	0.9414
Taiwan Dollar	28.9374
Thailand Baht	31.4930

Nation

White House turns on Fauci as Trump minimizes virus spike

WASHINGTON (AP)—With U.S. virus cases spiking and the death toll mounting, the White House is working to undercut its most trusted coronavirus expert, playing down the danger as President Donald Trump pushes to get the economy moving before he faces voters in November.

The U.S. has become a cautionary tale across the globe, with once-falling cases now spiraling. However, Trump suggests the severity of the pandemic that has killed more than 135,000 Americans is being overstated by critics to damage his reelection chances.

Trump on Monday retweeted a post by Chuck Woolery, once the host of TV's "Love Connection," claiming that "Everyone is lying" about COVID-19. Woolery's tweet attacked not just the media and Democrats but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and most doctors "that we are told to trust. I think it's all about the election and keeping the economy from coming back, which is about the election."

At the same time, the president and top White House aides are ramping up attacks against Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious diseases expert. Fauci has been increasingly sidelined by the White House as he sounds alarms about the virus, a most unwelcome message at a time when Trump is focused on pushing an economic rebound.

"We haven't even begun to see the end of it yet," he said



AP
Dr. Anthony Fauci speaks at a news conference as U.S. President Donald Trump looks on in Washington on April 22.

in a talk with the dean of Stanford's medical school Monday, calling for a "step back" in reopenings.

Last week, Fauci contradicted Trump about the severity of the virus during a FiveThirtyEight podcast. While Trump contends repeatedly that he has done a great job against the pandemic, Fauci said, "As a country, when you compare us to other countries, I don't think you can say we're doing great. I mean, we're just not."

Trump later said Fauci had "made a lot of mistakes." He pointed to Fauci's early disagreement with him over the China travel ban and to the evolving guidance over the use of masks as scientists'

understanding of the virus improved—points the White House expanded on in statements to media outlets over the weekend.

Asked whether the president still had confidence in Fauci, a White House official on Monday insisted Trump did. The official said Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, was regarded as "a valued voice" on the White House coronavirus task force. The official spoke on condition of anonymity even though the president has repeatedly railed against anonymous sources.

"I have a very good relationship with Dr. Fauci," Trump told reporters Monday, calling

him "a very nice person." But the president added, "I don't always agree with him."

That supportive message was not echoed by Peter Navarro, a top White House trade adviser who has been working on the coronavirus effort.

In an email, Navarro continued to criticize Fauci to The Associated Press on Monday, saying the doctor has "a good bedside manner with the public but he has been wrong about everything I have ever interacted with him on." That includes, he said, downplaying the early risk of the virus and expressing skepticism over the use of hydroxychloroquine, which Navarro has aggressively championed de-

spite contradictory evidence on its efficacy and safety.

Fauci, who has not appeared at recent White House task force briefings and has been largely absent from television, told the Financial Times last week that he last saw Trump in person at the White House on June 2 and hadn't briefed him

in at least two months.

He blamed the fact that he has refused to toe the administration's line for its refusal to approve many of his media requests.

"I have a reputation, as you probably have figured out, of speaking the truth at all times and not sugar-coating things. And that may be one of the reasons why I haven't been on television very much lately," Fauci said.

Trump's political foes put it more strongly.

"The president's disgusting attempt to pass the buck by blaming the top infectious disease expert in the country—whose advice he repeatedly ignored and Joe Biden consistently implored him to take—is yet another horrible and revealing failure of leadership as the tragic death toll continues to needlessly grow," said Andrew Bates, a spokesman for Democrat Biden's presidential campaign.

Citing politics, Democrats want Census appointees removed

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Saying they represented the latest effort by the Trump administration to politicize the 2020 census, House Democrats on Monday asked U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross to withdraw two appointees from top positions at the U.S. Census Bureau.

Democrats on the Committee on Oversight and Reform said in a letter to Ross, whose department oversees the Census Bureau, that he should withdraw the appointments of Nathaniel Cogley and Adam Korzeniewski.

Cogley, a political science professor at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, who wrote a series of opinion pieces against the impeachment of President Donald Trump, was named a deputy director for policy. Korzeniewski, a former campaign consultant to the pro-Trump YouTube personality known as "Joey Salads," was picked as a senior adviser to the deputy director for policy.

Their appointments have been criticized by a series of professional associations of demographers and stat-

isticians, including most recently by the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, which said last week that the appointments could damage the bureau's mission to provide the public with accurate and nonpartisan information.

Last week, the U.S. Department of Commerce's inspector general asked the Census Bureau for information related to the hiring process involving the two men.

"The Trump Administration has failed to adequately set forth its motives for this action, identify the specific needs it is trying to address, explain why it needs more political appointees running the Census than previous Administrations, or justify why the American taxpayers should be forced to pay for these partisan appointees running what should be an ideologically neutral count of the people in our country," House Democrats said in their letter Monday.

A Census Bureau spokesman on Monday referred an inquiry to the Department of Commerce, which did not immediately respond to an email.

US debates school reopening, WHO warns 'no return to normal'

MIAMI (AP)—The resurgence of the coronavirus in the United States ignited fierce debate Monday about whether to reopen schools, as global health officials warned that the pandemic will intensify unless more countries adopt comprehensive plans to combat it.

"If the basics aren't followed, there is only one way this pandemic is going to go," said the director of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "It's going to get worse and worse and worse."

Debate over the risks the virus poses, and how best to fight it, were spotlighted in Florida after it shattered the record among U.S. states for the largest single-day increase, with more than 15,000 newly confirmed cases.

Officials and health experts in hard-hit Miami pushed back against pressure, both from Gov. Ron DeSantis and President Donald Trump, to bring

students back to classrooms next month.

"We just absolutely cannot risk the health of children, their well-being and safety, or any of our colleagues," said Karla Hernandez-Mats, president of the United Teachers of Dade union and a middle school teacher herself. "We're probably going to have to go to a full shutdown mode. I can't see the schools reopening except with the 100% virtual model."

Parents have until Wednesday to notify the Miami-Dade school district of their decision whether they will send their kids to school this fall or have them study online from home.

"Children can get the virus in their bodies and get contaminated just like anybody else," said Florida International University epidemiologist Dr. Aileen Marty, who has been advising the Miami school district on its reopening plans.

DeSantis has argued that

children have not proven to be vectors for the disease and that if retailers like Walmart can be reopened safely, then schools should be able to as well. But he made those arguments with a notable caveat, saying that each county should make its own decision on reopening in consultation with local health officials.

WHO officials cautioned that decisions on reopening schools should be made without political considerations, as part of a comprehensive strategy for battling COVID-19.

"We can't turn schools into yet another political football in this game. It's not fair on our children," Dr. Michael Ryan, the organization's emergencies chief, said Monday.

The debate is hardly limited to Florida.

In Detroit, where summer school classes for hundreds of students opened Monday, protesters blocked a school bus yard with tree branches.

"When I visited schools this

morning I knew we were doing the right thing for children," schools Superintendent Nikolai Vitti said, in a post on Twitter.

"COVID is not going away. Many of our children need face-to-face, direct engagement," he said.

But lawyer Shanta Driver said she planned to file a lawsuit to stop the in-person instruction.

"I'm not going back until this pandemic is defeated. There is not a safe way to return to school while this virus is spreading uncontained," said teacher Benjamin Royal.

Officials in California's two largest school districts, Los Angeles and San Diego, announced Monday that students will stick to online learning from home when school resumes next month, rather than return to classrooms.

The districts cited research about school safety experiences from around the world, along with state and local health guidance.

World

UN: Pandemic could push tens of millions into chronic hunger

ROME (AP)—The United Nations says the ranks of the world's hungry grew by 10 million last year and warns that the coronavirus pandemic could push as many as 130 million more people into chronic hunger this year.

The grim assessment was contained in the latest edition of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, an annual report released Monday by the five U.N. agencies that produced it.

Preliminary projections based on available global economic

outlooks suggest the pandemic "may add an additional 83 (million) to 132 million people to the ranks of the undernourished in 2020," the report said.

Also compounding the situation is what the report's authors described as "unprecedented Desert Locust outbreaks" in Eastern Africa.

The U.N. agencies estimated that nearly 690 million people, or nearly 9% of the world's population, went hungry last year, an increase of 10 million since 2018 and of nearly 60 million since 2014.

The report noted that after steadily declining for decades, chronic hunger "slowly began to rise in 2014 and continues to do so."

In terms of sheer numbers, Asia is home to the greatest number of undernourished people, an estimated 381 million, the report said. Africa has the most as a percentage of the population, U.N. researchers found, with nearly 20% of the continent's people undernourished. That compares to 8.3% in

Asia and 7.4% in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to the report.

With progress in fighting hunger stalled even before the pandemic, the report's authors said that COVID-19 "is intensifying the vulnerabilities and inadequacies of global food systems"—defined in the report as all the activities and processes affecting the production, distribution and consumption of food.

The U.N. agencies said a

"staggering" 3 billion people or more can't afford to acquire the food needed for a healthy diet.

More must be done, including "ensuring all people's access not only to food, but to nutritious foods that make up a healthy diet," they said.

As a result of the pandemic, food supply disruptions, lost livelihoods and the inability of people working abroad to send remittances home to their families mean it's "even more difficult for the poorer and vul-

nerable populations to have access to healthy diets," the U.N. agencies concluded.

Oxfam, a humanitarian group dedicated to fighting poverty, called the U.N. report "highly alarming." In a statement, Oxfam called on governments to fully fund the United Nation's COVID-19 appeal and to cancel the debts of low-income countries so resources could be freed up to tackle "the surge in hunger linked to the pandemic."

WHO slams 'mixed messages' from leaders on coronavirus

GENEVA (AP)—The World Health Organization's chief on Monday slammed some government leaders for eroding public trust by sending mixed messages on the coronavirus and warned that their failures to stop their countries' spiraling outbreaks mean there would be no return to normal "for the foreseeable future."

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus did not call out specific politicians for criticism but said "too many countries are headed in the wrong direction" with the pandemic and some were not taking the proper steps to curb infections.

At the same time, Tedros acknowledged how difficult it was for governments to respond effectively, given the economic, social and cultural consequences of imposing restrictions.

"The virus remains public enemy No. 1, but the actions of many governments and people

do not reflect this," he said.

The director-general's remarks to reporters in Geneva came a day after WHO reported yet another worldwide record of more than 230,000 confirmed cases in 24 hours. Ten countries accounted for 80% of the daily tally reported Sunday, and more than half of the new confirmed cases came from the United States and Brazil alone.

The U.N. health agency said government and individual responses should depend on local conditions - namely, whether there is widespread community spread of the virus.

Take schools: Many countries have reopened classrooms as their daily case counts fell, but some nations are playing "political football" by calling for schools to reopen without having broader control measures in place such as keeping shops closed or limiting public gatherings, WHO said.

Japan says coronavirus adds to security threat by China

TOKYO (AP)—China is pushing harder to make territorial claims in the regional seas and even using the coronavirus pandemic to expand its influence and take strategic superiority, posing a greater threat to Japan and the region, Japan's government said.

The report highlighting the government's defense priorities was adopted by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet on Tuesday, less than a day after the Trump administration rejected outright nearly all of Beijing's significant maritime claims in the South China Sea in a statement likely to deepen the U.S.-China rift.

The Abe government's Defense White Paper 2020 highlights what are potential Chinese and North Korean threats as Japan tries to further

increase its defense capability. Under Abe, Japan has steadily increased its defense budget and capability and purchased costly American arsenals.

Defense Minister Taro Kono recently scrapped the deployment of a pair of costly U.S. land-based missile intercepting systems due to technical issues, and Abe quickly announced his intention to revise Japan's defense guidelines, possibly allowing Japan to go beyond its conventional defense-only role under the Japan-U.S. security alliance, including discussing a possibility of acquiring a preemptive strike capability.

The White Paper accused China of using propaganda, including spreading disinformation, about the spread of the coronavirus.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE †Juan Toves King

Lovingly known as "John"

Born to Life on March 26, 1968 and Called to Eternal Life on July 6, 2020

In his new life, he is reunited with his:

Father: †Jose Borja King
Father-in-Law: †Henry Carl Villagomez Hofschneider
Sister: †Victoria King Mendiola
Sister-in-Law: †Rosita Manglona Hofschneider
Brothers-in-Law: †David Masga Mendiola, †Edward Sablan Sanchez, †Marcelino P. Biz, Sr. †Edward San Nicolas Borja, †Rembert Manglona Hofschneider
Niece: †Reyisa King Aldan

His memory will forever live on with his loving:

Wife: Annie Marie Hofschneider King
Children and Grandchildren:
Tianna Lynn Hofschneider and Roland Barcinas San Nicolas - Endymion Roland, Alana Jamie
Melanie Mae Hofschneider and Samuel Pomaikai Keokina Moses
John Henry Hofschneider King
Janeen Magdalen Hofschneider King and Develle Palacios Maui - Dayton John, Deveney

Mother and Stepfather: Martha Villagomez and Oscar M. Bantolino

Mother-in-Law: Magdalena Manglona Hofschneider

Brothers and Sisters:

Juan Manalo & Lourdes Atalig & Family
Theodosia King Sanchez and Eugenio Lizama Villagomez & Family
Sabina King & Ramon Palacios Aldan & Family
Vincent Toves & Josephine Calimlim King & Family
†Victoria King & †David Masga Mendiola & Family
Jose Toves & Leticia Palacios King & Family
Celina Toves King and Gary Palacios Aldan & Family
Henry Toves. & Jackie Villagomez King & Family
Juanita King & Joseph Troutman & Family
Sylvia King Biz & Family
Rosita King & Mayor Edwin Palacios Aldan & Family
Brian Toves & Carla Dela Cruz King & Family

Brothers- and Sisters-in-Law:

Edwin Manglona & Vivian Villavicencio Hofschneider & Family
Esther Hofschneider & Jeffrey Lynn Barr
Jeffrey Manglona Hofschneider & Family
Arthur Manglona Hofschneider and Leona Cing Tudela & Family
Jeanette Hofschneider & Joaquin Hoashi Borja & Family
Arlene Hofschneider & Jose Mendiola Pangelinan & Family
Donna Hofschneider & Ronnie Quitano & Family
Henry Carl Manglona & Currine Cepeda Hofschneider & Family
Donald Manglona Hofschneider

The late †Juan Toves King will also be missed by numerous relatives and friends.

Mass is being offered daily at the San Jose Church on Tinian from July 7 to July 15, 2020. The mass schedule is as follows: 6:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, and 6:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

The body of the late †Juan Toves King will be arriving on Saipan on Saturday, July 25, 2020. A viewing will be held for the late †Juan Toves King at Borja's Funeral Home from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 30, 2020.

The late †Juan Toves King will arrive on Tinian on Thursday, at 11:30 a.m., and will be brought to the Tinian Health Center Morgue. Rosary will immediately follow.

On Saturday, August 1, 2020, the late †Juan Toves King will be brought to his family residence at 7:30 a.m., for the Holy Rosary and for viewing. At 10:00 a.m., the late †Juan Toves King will depart to San Jose Church for the responso. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m., and interment services will immediately follow at San Jose Public Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You from Annie, children & spouses, and grandchildren.

Good Housekeeping

Technically, we aren't supposed to call them "popsicles." That's a registered trademark. But ice pops, creamy pops made with milk or yogurt, and other fruity desserts-on-a-stick are having a moment. You might be seeing them pop up on your Instagram feed, in bright colors, made with orange and mango and filled with pieces of fruit.

Because pops are versatile and easy to make, it's worth it to try them at home, says baking and dessert blogger Vallery Lomas.

You need only fruit juice, or iced tea, and whatever fresh or frozen fruit you have on hand. You can add milk, cream, chocolate or even the last of that swig of St. Germain or bourbon if that's what it takes to cool off.

Lomas recently posted an Instagram video class for her blueberry,



Use purees of fruit, cream, yogurt or simply juice and herbs to make these pretty homemade popsicles.

Ice pops and cream pops make an easy, cool summer snack

By JAMILA ROBINSON
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Greek yogurt, and coconut milk pops.

"I started making popsicles because I lived in an apartment with no air-conditioning," Lomas said. "I like them for a summertime breakfast or snack because I can control what's in it. I get good fat from the yogurt and it keeps me full."

Ice pops also make a good cooking project for kids, allowing them to combine fruits, even though freezing and unmolding time do require a bit of patience.

Pops are also great for serving at a social distance. Just grab a stick and keep it moving.

Here are some tips for making your own pops:

Molds: You can find ice pop molds at home goods stores like Bed, Bath & Beyond for about \$13. To remove the pops from the molds, run hot water over the mold just until the pop releases. Once the pops are removed, return them to the freezer briefly to set.

Storage: Don't store the pops in the molds because you'll have a hard time removing them. Instead, put them in zipper bags where they will keep about two weeks.

Instagram-worthy pops: Get your pops ready for social posts by adding extra fruit or even edible flowers to the mold before pouring in the liquid. Lomas says you can make pops pretty by giving them a garden atmosphere using lavender sprigs or lemon thyme leaves. "If I was having a socially distant backyard party, I would serve beautiful popsicles," she said.

Fruit pops: You'll need about 2 cups of fresh or frozen fruit, 1/4 cup of orange or apple juice or and 2 to 3



Chocolate, blueberry with greek yogurt, peach raspberry, lemon-lime, mango orange and strawberry-raspberry ice pops.

tablespoons of sugar, honey, or other sweetener. Puree the ingredients in a blender, then pour into molds. Add 1 tablespoon of lemon juice to preserve the color of peaches and mango.

Creamy pops: A cup of Greek yogurt and 1/4 cup of milk can serve as the base for creamy pops. Feel free to use coconut water, soy, or almond milk. You can add whole fruit to this base, or put all the ingredients into a blender and puree, then pour into molds.

Layered pops: Let each layer of fruit puree or creamy pop mixture set in the freezer for at least 20 minutes before adding the next flavor. Be sure to keep other purees refrigerated while layers are setting.

BLUEBERRY-COCONUT GREEK YOGURT POPS

Makes 10

- 1 1/2 cups (12 ounces) Greek yogurt
- 3/4 cup (6 ounces) full fat coconut milk

- 4 tablespoons granulated sugar*, divided
- 1 1/2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries
- *Honey can instead of sugar, and adjust to taste

In a large bowl, combine the Greek yogurt with the coconut milk and 1 1/2 to 2 tablespoons of sugar or honey. Stir vigorously until you have a smooth consistency. Taste and add more sweetener, if desired. Set aside.

Make the blueberry sauce by combining the blueberries with the remaining 2 tablespoons of granulated sugar or honey in a small pot. Cook over medium heat until the blueberries start to break down. Stir and continue cooking until it reaches a jamlike consistency. Remove from heat.

Place a tablespoon of the yogurt mixture in each mold. Add a tablespoon of blueberry sauce. Top with another tablespoon of the yogurt. Continue alternating until the mold is nearly full. Place the top on the mold and add the sticks. Freeze for six hours.

Once the ice pops are completely frozen, place the mold under running water so that they will loosen. Remove and enjoy immediately, or place in the freezer in an air-tight container with parchment paper dividing each row. These are an easy grab-and-go breakfast for summer, or a cool treat for any time of day.

— Recipe courtesy of Vallery Lomas; foodieinnewyork.com

LEMON ICE POPS

This ice pop recipe can be adapted for any fruit you have on hand. You

can also add lime or coconut. For pretty pops, drop thin slices of lemon and lime into the mold before adding liquid.

Makes about 10 pops

- 3/4 cup sugar or 1/2 cup honey
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- Zest of 2 lemons

Using a saucepan, dissolve sugar into water, stirring continuously. Add juice and zest and bring to a simmer. Remove mixture from heat and allow to cool. Taste and adjust sweetener, if needed.

Pour lemon mixture into molds, add sticks and freeze for 6 hours.

STRAWBERRY CREAM POPS

Makes about 10 pops

Any fruit you have on hand can be made into a creamy pop. For a mocha version, replace fruit with 2 tablespoons of unsweetened cocoa powder and 1 tablespoon of espresso powder. For a refreshing floral pop, use honey and replace fruit with a pinch of culinary lavender.

- 2 cups strawberries, hulled and quartered
- 1 cup Greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup whole, coconut, soy, or almond milk
- 1/4 cup sugar or honey (to taste)
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- Pinch of salt

Using a blender, puree all ingredients until smooth, scraping down sides, if necessary. Taste and adjust sweetener.

Pour mixture into ice pop molds, add sticks, and freeze for 6 hours.

DIABETES QUICK FIX: Filipino Pork Adobo

By LINDA GASSENHEIMER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Mild, tangy Adobo is one of the national dishes of the Philippines. The meat is cooked slowly in a vinegar sauce over low heat. It usually takes hours to stew. This is a shortened version using pork tenderloin. It has the flavors without the hours of cooking.

Helpful Hints:

- Minced garlic can be found in the produce section of the market.
- Use a small saucepan so the sauce will cover the chicken.

Countdown:

- Prepare ingredients.
- Start recipe.
- While pork cooks, microwave rice.

Shopping List:

3/4 pound pork tenderloin, 1 bottle distilled white vinegar, 1 bottle low-sodium soy sauce*, 1 small bottle honey, 1 package microwaveable brown rice, 1 red bell pepper and 1 bunch scallions.

Staples: olive oil, onion, minced garlic, salt and black peppercorns.

Shop Smart:

* low-sodium soy sauce, containing per tablespoon: 8 calories, 511 mg sodium

FILIPINO PORK ADOBO

Recipe by Linda Gassenheimer

3/4 pound pork tenderloin, cut into 1/2-inch pieces

2 teaspoons olive oil
1/2 cup sliced onion
2 tablespoons distilled white vinegar
1 1/2 tablespoons low-sodium soy sauce
2 tablespoons honey
2 teaspoons minced garlic
1 cup sliced red bell pepper
1 package microwave brown rice (to make 1 1/2 cups rice)
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 scallion, sliced

Remove visible fat from pork and cut into 1/2-inch pieces. Heat oil in a small saucepan and brown the pork on all sides, about 5 minutes. Add onion, vinegar, soy sauce, honey, garlic and red bell pepper. Bring to a simmer, do not boil, and cook covered 10 minutes. Meanwhile make the microwaved rice. Cook rice according to package instructions. Measure 1 1/2 cups and set aside the remaining rice for another dinner. Divide rice between two dinner plates and spoon the adobo on top and sprinkle with scallions.

Yield 2 servings.

Per serving: 500 calories, 90 calories from fat, 10 g fat, 2.1 g saturated fat, 5.1 g monounsaturated fat, 110 mg cholesterol, 42 g protein, 60 g carbohydrates, 5 g dietary fiber, 21 g sugars, 590 mg sodium, 985 mg potassium, 595 mg phosphorus

Exchanges: 2 1/2 starch, 1 other carbohydrate, 1 vegetable, 4 1/2 protein

Life & Style

Kelly Preston, actor and wife of John Travolta, dies at 57

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kelly Preston, who played dramatic and comic foil to actors ranging from Tom Cruise in “Jerry Maguire” to Arnold Schwarzenegger in “Twins,” died Sunday, husband John Travolta said. She was 57.

Travolta said in an Instagram post that his wife of 28 years died after a two-year battle with breast cancer.

“It is with a very heavy heart that I inform you that my beautiful wife Kelly has lost her two-year battle with breast cancer,” Travolta said. “She fought a courageous fight with the love and support of so many.”

The couple had three children together.

“Shocked by this sad news,” Maria Shriver said on Twitter. “Kelly was such a bright loving soul, a talented actress, and

a loving mom and wife. My heart breaks for her family who have already known such sadness and grief.”

Born Kelly Kamalelehua Smith on Oct. 13, 1962, in Honolulu, Hawaii, Preston had a lengthy acting career in movies and television beginning in the 1980s, including the 1985 teen comedy “Mischiefs,” 1986’s “Space Camp” and her breakthrough, 1988’s “Twins.” Preston played Marnie, the woman who marries Schwarzenegger’s character.

Preston was first married to actor Kevin Gage. They divorced in 1987.

The year after, Preston met Travolta while shooting the 1989 film “The Experts,” a box-office flop about a Soviet KGB agent who hires hip New Yorkers to update the spy pro-



In this May 15, 2018, file photo, actress Kelly Preston poses for photographers during a photo call for the film ‘Gotti’ at the 71st international film festival, Cannes, southern France. AP

gram’s understanding of American society. They meet on the dance floor after Travolta asks, “Does anyone here know how to dance?” Preston responds: “I know how to dance.”

They were married in 1991

at a midnight ceremony in Paris while expecting their first son, Jett.

Preston starred opposite Kevin Costner in the 1999 film “For the Love of the Game.” In 2003, she starred in “What

a Girl Wants” and as the mom in the live-action adaptation of “The Cat in the Hat.” The following year she appeared in the music video for Maroon 5’s “She Will Be Loved.”

Preston gave one of her most well-received performances in “Jerry Maguire” as the ex-fiancée of Cruise’s sports agent who dumps him early in the movie. The Daily News called her “icily effective.”

On Monday, Russell Crowe recalled knowing Preston in the ‘90s. He said he hadn’t seen her much since, “but when I did, she was always the same sparkly eyed gem.”

Preston occasionally appeared in films with her husband, though the results were seldom among either’s best work. Among them: the box-office bomb “Battlefield

Earth” in 2000 and the 2009 Disney comedy “Old Dogs,” also with their daughter, Ella Bleu.

In January 2009, Jett Travolta, 16, died after a seizure at the family’s vacation home in the Bahamas. The death touched off a court case after an ambulance driver and his attorney were accused of trying to extort \$25 million from the actors in exchange for not releasing sensitive information about their son’s death.

Travolta testified during a criminal trial that ended in a mistrial and was prepared to testify a second time, but decided to stop pursuing the case and it was dismissed. He cited the severe strain the proceedings and his son’s death had caused the family.

In libel case, Depp says Heard hit him with ‘haymaker’ punch

LONDON (AP)—Johnny Depp accused Amber Heard of hitting him with a “haymaker” punch during an altercation near the end of their volatile marriage, as the star wrapped up testimony in his libel suit against a British tabloid newspaper that accused him of domestic abuse.

Depp said the fight came after Heard’s 30th birthday party, and hours after he had learned that his former business managers had absconded with hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Hollywood star is suing News Group Newspapers, publisher of The Sun, and the paper’s executive editor, Dan Wootton, over an April 2018 article that called him a “wife-beater.” He strongly denies abusing Heard.

Depp, 57, and Heard, 34, met

on the set of the 2011 comedy “The Rum Diary” and married in Los Angeles in February 2015. Heard, a model and actress, filed for divorce the following year, and the divorce was finalized in 2017.

Depp said the couple separated after an argument that followed Heard’s 30th birthday party in April 2016. The actor said that just before the party he had learned that his former business managers had “stolen my money.”

Asked how much was stolen, Depp said “this is a ludicrous amount to have to state, it’s quite embarrassing—apparently I had made \$650 million,” much of it through his involvement with the “Pirates of the Caribbean” films.

Depp added that in addi-

tion to losing the \$650 million he was “\$100 million in the hole because they had not paid the government my taxes for 17 years.”

Depp and his former business managers settled a legal dispute over the alleged fraud in 2018.

Depp alleges that after the party he went to bed to read, and that Heard began accusing him of ruining her birthday dinner before throwing a “haymaker” at him.

Depp’s lawyer, David Sherborne, asked him to explain the American slang term for the judge, Andrew Nicol.

“A haymaker is a type of a wild swing, a roundhouse punch ... effective if it reaches the target,” Depp said.

“I have come across it,” noted the judge.

Heard is attending the three-week trial and is scheduled to give her own version of events later. During five days in the witness box, Depp depicted a tumultuous relationship with Heard during a period when he was trying to kick drugs and alcohol, and sometimes lapsing.

He called the relationship “a crime scene waiting to happen.” But he denied Heard’s claims that he slapped, hit, headbutted and threw things at her, and accused his ex-wife of compiling a dossier of fake claims against him as an “insurance policy.”

Evidence in the trial has included video and audio recordings of Depp made by Heard. One photo discussed Monday shows Depp slumped and apparently unconscious with ice cream spilled over him.

Sheriff: ‘Glee’ star Naya Rivera saved son before drowning

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Glee” star Naya Rivera’s 4-year-old son told investigators that his mother, whose body was found in a Southern California lake Monday, boosted him back on to the deck of their rented boat before he looked back and saw her disappearing under the water, authorities said.

“She must have mustered enough energy to get her son back on the boat, but not enough to save herself,” Ventura County Sheriff Bill Ayub said at a news conference.

The boy, Josey Hollis Dorsy, was found asleep and alone in a life vest on the drifting

pontoon boat about three hours after they launched on Lake Piru northwest of Los Angeles, setting off a five-day search that ended with the discovery of the body of the 33-year-old floating near the surface early Monday, authorities said.

The mother and son had gone swimming, which was permitted in that part of the lake, Ayub said.

She was not wearing a life vest.

Authorities believe that Rivera drowned accidentally, and that her body was most likely trapped in the vegetation under the lake for several days before floating to the top, Ayub said.



Rivera

Unhappy husband jumps from frying pan into fire

DEAR ABBY: I went through an ugly divorce. My second wife, “Marci,” is a liar, a cheat and a thief. She claims she’s religious, but she gambles. She opens bank accounts that I’m not aware of. She tries to justify what she has done, but she calls constantly if I leave the house. She claims she’s jealous. I think it’s more of a control issue, and I leave for peace of mind.

Recently, her relatives asked for a private meeting to discuss her behavior and shared what I feared. Afterward, I called her supposed ex-husband and he told me they are still married. When I asked Marci to show me her divorce papers, she refused. I have talked with my pastor and attorney. They said give her six weeks and then move on. What do you suggest?

— TAKEN FOR A FOOL IN ALABAMA

DEAR TAKEN: Listen to these two unbiased advisers! Secure any property or information Marci might use to take further advantage of you, and take comfort in the fact that because you are not legally married, you are not responsible for any debts she has or will run up. Understand that Marci is a con artist, and please do exactly what your pastor and your attorney have instructed. If she keeps calling, block her or change your phone number. And if she stalks you — and she may — talk to the police.

DEAR ABBY: “Lila,” a friend from my high school days I hadn’t seen for years, called me out of the blue and said her

mom wanted to see me again. Her mother and I had been friends for years. “Mom” was a special lady, and I always admired her, so I agreed.

When I arrived at the restaurant, I greeted them and we engaged in a little conversation. When I went to order, Lila pulled out a sales book she was selling items out of. Because I didn’t want to disappoint her mother, I looked at each item. The only thing I could afford was an umbrella for \$29. I already had a \$5 one at home (my budget).

Abby, I felt used and insulted. Lila’s only goal was selling me something -- not reuniting me with her mother. Lila is better off financially than I am. She owns her own home and drives a brand-new SUV. My car was bought used for \$2,000.

How do I tolerate a person like her? She wants all she can get, even if it means using an old friend. By the way, she was decked out in her fashionable finest and ordered the cheapest thing on the menu.

— SAD FRIEND ON THE EAST COAST

DEAR SAD FRIEND: You do not have to tolerate a person like Lila, and you should not feel pressured to buy something from anyone that you don’t want or need. If Lila calls again, inform her that you are not interested in anything she is selling and end the call.

DEAR ABBY: I’ve gotten into wearing swim trunks in the summer as normal attire. They’re good for the hot streets, and no one has said anything. I pair them with a white T-shirt or no

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



shirt. I plan to do it again this summer. What do you think?
— COOL DUDE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DUDE: If you’re in great shape and the neighbors aren’t scandalized, then what I think doesn’t matter. (Swim) suit yourself.

I will, however, offer this: A wise woman once advised me to always look my best when I went out because invariably, if I didn’t, I’d encounter someone I wished I looked better for and regret that I hadn’t made more effort. And you know what? She was spot on.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



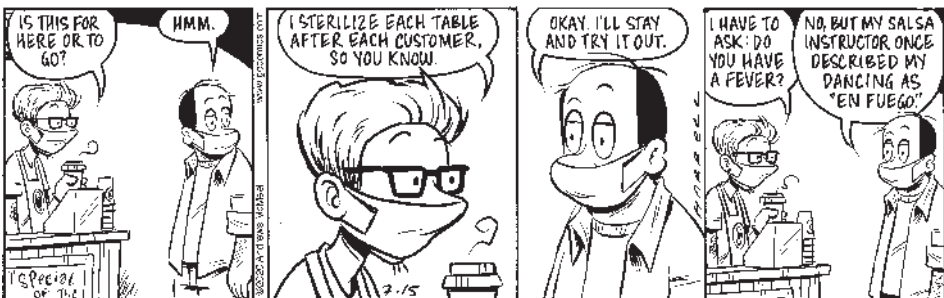
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



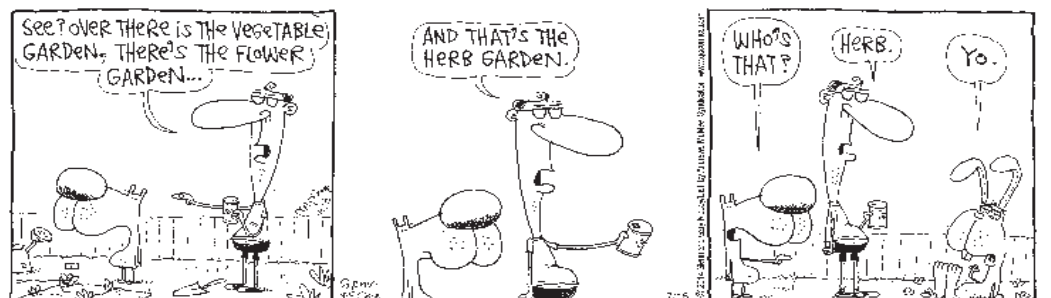
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

27 Old Olds
28 Liquefy
30 Your
4 Three, in Rome
7 Crib cry
8 BBQ fuel
10 "Nothing —!"
11 Author Lurie
13 First-term Capitol worker, at times
16 Observe
17 A bit crazy
18 Vitamin stat
19 London gallery
20 Song for two
21 Hide
23 Tools for duels
25 North Sea feeder
26 Roches-ter's love

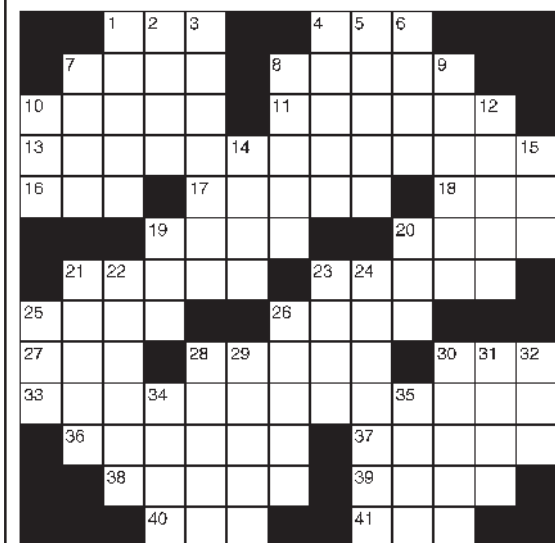
DOWN

1 New England state
2 High-end hotel chain
3 Asian temples
4 Apartment sign
5 Like April weather
6 "Frozen" snow
7 Grimace queen
8 Social group
9 "Amen to that!"
10 Dance club VIPs
12 Protuber-ances
14 Portnoy's creator
15 Snitch
19 Menlo Park monogram
20 Ruby or Sandra
21 Winter forecast
22 Chop-house orders
23 Ogled
24 Advance showing
25 Triage ctrs.
26 Obliterate
28 Salk's conquest
29 Russian range
30 Despots
31 MD's workplace
32 Decade parts (Abbr.)
34 Doctrines
35 Apple tablet

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	M	I	S	C	L	E	M	I	S	T	
R	O	T	C	A	I	R	A	S	E	A	
A	L	T	O	C	A	R	F	I	E	L	D
B	L	C	O	M	E	R	I	D	E	A	S
P	A	S	S	E							
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L	E	A	A	O	L	L	V	I			
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E	L	F	N	T	R	O	U	B	L	E	
C	O	O	L	I	D	G	E	T	A	U	T
C	R	E	N	I	A	E	R	M	A		
V	E	E	D	A	F	T	R	E	P	S	

Yesterday's answer 7-15



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Tristan Wilds, 31; Lana Parrilla, 43; Jason Bonham, 54; Forest Whitaker, 59.

Happy Birthday: Share your emotions, discuss your intentions and clear up matters that have been plaguing you for a long time. It's up to you to take the initiative if you want to see a change take place. It's time to set a course that leads to happiness and fulfillment. Don't wallow over what's gone; embrace what's ahead. Your numbers are 3, 12, 19, 23, 28, 33, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The past can teach you plenty if you mull over experiences similar to something you are facing today. Caution is in your best interest when dealing with someone who is asking for too much. A backup plan will be necessary. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A slight change will make a big difference. Don't let stubbornness stand between you and what you want. Communication will lead to solutions, and charm will seal the deal. A positive attitude change will encourage better personal and professional relationships. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put more effort into the way you look and feel. Good health is fundamental if you intend to do well throughout your life. Check out a physical activity that interests you, join a mindfulness group online and implement a nutritious diet. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Speak up, and positive changes will result. Sharing emotions isn't a sign of weakness; it's an indication you are passionate about something

you want to pursue. Be willing to give a little if you want something in return. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Last-minute change will disrupt your day if you don't have a backup plan. When making a decision, listen to your heart. Be the leader, not the one taking orders. Put more effort into bettering yourself and your position. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be encouraged to make a change. Consider what's entailed and how best to maneuver your way from one situation to another. Protect your health, assets, personal information and emotional well-being. Rely on facts, not hearsay. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll shine if you put your best foot forward and market what you do best. A little charm will help you convince others to believe in what you have to offer, but following through will lead to much higher rewards. ***

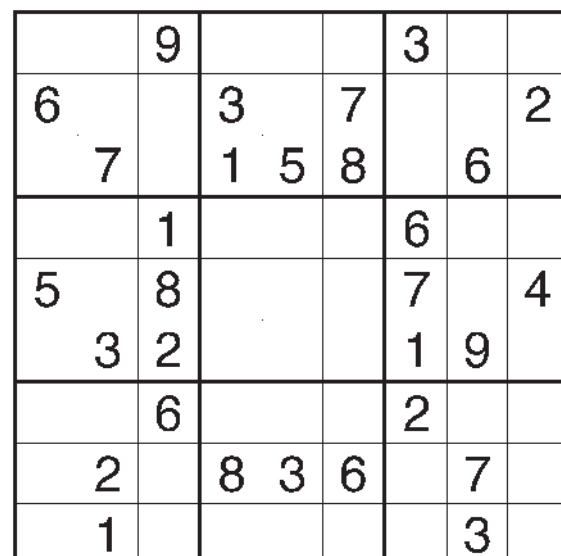
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Learn as you go, ask questions, formulate plans and interact with the people who can help you get ahead. You'll be given inside information if you are willing to make minor adjustments to your plans. A window of opportunity is within reach. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An aggressive plan to improve your domestic situation will help you be more productive. Figure out how much it will cost, and start to organize the best way to enhance your environment. A romantic gesture will help you avoid an argument. ***

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



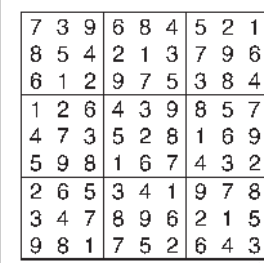
Difficulty Level ★★★

7/15

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider the pros and cons regarding altering the way you live. Make sure you are on the same page as someone you hold near and dear to your heart before taking action. You'll achieve more if your partner's on board. *****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't get trapped in someone's emotional situation. Spend more time making sure your personal life is in order and those you live with are content, and make adjustments that will bring you closer together. Achieve the goals you set. **



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Lock on to what's trending, and you'll find a way to put your skills to good use. Speak on your behalf, and you'll persuade others to take part in your plan. An addition at home will encourage family unity. *****

Birthday Baby: You are considerate, diligent and passionate. You are intense and demonstrative.

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

RETURNED MAIL

Solution: 12 letters

S Y D E G A M A D O P Y T R U
S E R A T N E T N O C D N O N
A T L E D E R U S N I O P O O
L F S B V N O T E L T O F D P
C O E E I I A N A I S O E E E
T R N V U G L V C T A E E R N
C W I A E Q E E A D T T D E E
E A F L A B E L D I F I B T D
R R C U I T X R D C A R A S E
I D A E U O E E R P K W C I P
D I R O B S S E E L F C K G O
E N R L S U A R D A O A A E S
V G I E F C P T N I R S I R I
O A E E H P A P E R M O T L T
M N R E T U R N S E L P M A S

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7/15
Addressee, Carrier, Glass, Content, Damaged, Delivery, Deposit, Direct, Door, Falls, Feedback, Fines, Flag, Form, Forwarding, Insured, Label, Legible, Lost, Mailbox, Moved, Note, Notice, Paper, Postage, Postal, Prepaid, Reach, Refused, Registered, Requests, Returns, Route, Samples, Sender, Track, Typo, Unopened, Valid, Value, Write
Yesterday's Answer: Ecosystems
Treasures 14, 15, 17, 18 and 21 through 39 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Westbrook has virus; NBA bubble faces first test



LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Houston's Russell Westbrook hasn't made it to the NBA restart yet.

The coronavirus did—but health protocols seemed to work as the league and its players hoped they would.

On a day of troubling news for the league—Westbrook revealing that he has tested positive for the virus and two other players facing 10-day quarantines for leaving the league campus perimeter at Walt Disney World—it was also announced that two players tested positive for the virus after arriving in Central Flori-

da last week.

But neither of those positive players ever made it out of quarantine, so neither entered the so-called bubble and could mingle freely with other players, coaches and staff. The NBA said both players, neither of whom were identified, "have since left the Campus to isolate at home or in isolation housing." They could rejoin their teams later.

"Our protocols are unbelievable," said Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry, one of the players who helped craft the restart rules. "I think our protocols and our health and safety measures have been top-notch. I think this thing will

Kawhi, Clippers chase championship

FLORIDA—His beard a little longer, his head covered by a blue "L.A." hat, Clippers star Kawhi Leonard sat in front of a webcam and related how returning to play after the most unusual break in NBA history felt like gearing up following any other offseason.

Time off would be followed by light workouts, practices, preseason games and, eventually, the real thing.

But that comparison wasn't quite right, and not only because of the unprecedented circumstances surrounding the NBA's attempted restart amid the global coronavirus pandemic.

Unlike September's pickup games and October's Hawaiian training camp, which Leonard and Paul George could only watch from the sideline as they recovered from injuries, both All-Stars have declared themselves healthy since arriving in Orlando, Fla., in recent days.

At a time when teams are trying to get back to speed as quickly as possible, and protecting the health of star players never has been more precarious, any head start represents a boost.

"I feel good," Leonard said Monday, the first time he spoke to reporters since March. "Was able to work out, get strong and prepare for this moment now that we're in. It's about to be the first practice today, so I'm excited."

One of the foremost adherents to the "load management" strategy, Leonard has not played games on consecutive days since 2017 and had his minutes limited for long stretches this season while carefully monitoring what the NBA called an ongoing injury to his left patella tendon.

Asked whether Leonard's participation would be limited in the lead-up to the post-season, coach Doc Rivers

said there were "no limits" on the player who has averaged 26.9 points, 7.3 rebounds and 5.0 assists this season.

"Kawhi is healthy for the most part," Rivers said. "That still doesn't mean that we don't want to maintain him and get him through the first eight games and get ready for the playoffs. We want to be smart about this. Not just for Kawhi, it's with everybody."

The Clippers won seven of their last eight games to move into second place in the Western Conference before the NBA shut down. Leonard called it "difficult" during the hiatus to maintain the rhythm the roster had.

Thanks to a lively group chat, however, staying connected to his teammates was easy. In late May, those conversations began touching on the Black Lives Matter movement that erupted following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

"What's happened, what everybody has been seeing on the news, it's been like [that] for me," Leonard said. "I've been seeing those situations, so it's nothing new to me, and I'm still going to continue to help and educate people as well as my teammates. It doesn't matter if we have a statement on the back of our jersey, it's about doing the work."

Teammate Rodney McGruder said he will wear "peace" on the back of his jersey, one of 29 statements the NBA and the players' union approved. More prominent Monday was the smile McGruder wore when describing the atmosphere as more Clippers have arrived and cleared quarantine in recent days.

"The bubble has been—it's unique, but it's been pretty exciting though, for us," McGruder said. "Just to be together and build something right now." (AP/NBC)



In this Oct. 28, 2019 file photo, Houston Rockets guard Russell Westbrook (0) drives to the basket as Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2) defends during the first half of an NBA game in Houston.

players were tested with the two positives.

"All we can do is try to stay optimistic about it and positive, and hopefully we can finish this season," said Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard, the reigning NBA Finals MVP.

Inside the NBA bubble, however, there was optimism that the rules established by the league and the players will work—even though some Disney parks reopened to visitors over the weekend and the MLS restart, also at the campus, has seen two teams leave after a spate of positive tests.

"It's a condition, a virus, that does not discriminate," Phoenix coach Monty Williams said. "And we're trying to do everything we can to keep our guys safe."

Those protocols that Lowry spoke of were designed to be taken seriously, and at least two players inside the NBA bubble have already paid a steep price for violating quarantine upon their teams' respective arrivals last week.

Sacramento's Richaun Holmes revealed Monday that he "briefly and accidentally" crossed the NBA campus line to pick up a food delivery. Under the NBA's rules of the restart, he now has to spend 10 days in quarantine.

Holmes said he had eight days left in quarantine.

"I apologize for my actions and look forward to rejoining my teammates for our playoff push," Holmes wrote.

Also Monday, a person with knowledge of the situation said that Houston's Bruno Caboclo was also serving a 10-day quarantine for crossing the campus line. Like Holmes, Caboclo also had eight days remaining Monday, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Rockets have not announced the sanction.

Monday's developments came on a day where more than 12,000 new cases were confirmed in Florida, now perhaps the hottest of virus hotspots in the U.S. And officials in Houston also called for that city to lock back down as area hospitals strain to accommodate patients sick with COVID-19.

Westbrook also offered a word of caution.

"Please take this virus seriously," Westbrook wrote. "Be safe. Mask up!"

work perfectly. ... We're doing everything that we can possibly do to make sure that we're healthy, we're safe and we're in an environment where we can be successful and do our jobs at a high level."

It's unclear when Westbrook will arrive. As recently as Sunday, the Rockets believed that Westbrook, NBA scoring leader James Harden and newly re-acquired Luc Mbah a Moute — none of the three traveled with the team to Walt Disney World near Orlando last week — would be with the team in the next few days.

In Westbrook's case, that now seems most unlikely.

"I tested positive for COVID-19 prior to my teams departure to Orlando," Westbrook wrote on his social media channels. "I'm currently feeling well, quarantined, and looking forward to

rejoining my teammates when I am cleared."

Harden still not in

The arrival dates for Harden and Mbah a Moute are murky as well. Neither player has revealed why they aren't at Disney, and Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni would only say that "these are things that people are dealing with."

D'Antoni said Westbrook had taken part in individual workouts when they were permitted back in Houston, but declined to elaborate further on the guard's condition. He also isn't sure when the missing Rockets will arrive.

"I did have one year of premed," D'Antoni said. "But I don't know when it's going to happen. As soon as protocols get out of the way ... they're all anxious to get here and they're doing what they need to do to

stay in shape.

"This is not going to set us back. We're not going to let it set us back, and we're going to be ready to roll here in the next two, three weeks."

Westbrook is averaging 27.5 points, eight rebounds and seven assists per game for the Rockets this season. Houston has clinched a playoff spot and resumes its season with the first of eight seeding games on July 31 against Dallas.

"I'm praying for his safety and the same for his family," Phoenix guard Devin Booker said. "Hopefully he can get healthy and get down here as soon as possible."

The league also said Monday that 19 players newly tested positive since July 1 during in-market testing, meaning tests done before teams began arriving at Disney on July 7. Upon arrival at Disney, 322

MLB teams try to ramp up competition in camp

NEW YORK (AP)—Well-traveled Milwaukee Brewers first baseman-outfielder Logan Morrison figures it will be easy for him to adjust to games without spectators this season.

"I played for the Rays and the Marlins, so I'm used to it," Morrison said.

The Brewers and other major league teams worked out again Monday in mostly empty ballparks, mindful the long-awaited start to the season is barely a week away and fans won't be coming. So teams are trying as best they can to ramp up the competitiveness of summer camps conducted in isolation.

Several teams announced upcoming exhibition games, including Houston at Kansas City, Kansas City at St. Louis, and Cleveland against Pittsburgh.

The Brewers will play intrasquad games for several nights starting Tuesday and are dubbing them the Blue and Gold World Series, a nod to manager Craig Counsell's alma mater, Notre Dame. Catcher Omar Narvaez and outfielder Avisail Garcia will draft teams for matchups designed to approximate the intensity of regular-season games.

"It's important for the players to understand the dial can't go from one to 10, from camp to opening day," Counsell said. "That's an important part of how we're trying to prepare them."

Minnesota Twins center fielder Byron Buxton was going all-out in an intrasquad game at Target Field when he suffered an injury. The oft-injured Buxton was tracking a long fly by Nelson Cruz when he hurt his left leg, and he had to be carted off the field.

Meanwhile, the virus continued to complicate preparations. St. Louis Cardinals reliever Jordan Hicks opted out of playing this season, citing underlying health concerns. He was diagnosed in high school with Type 1 diabetes.

Manager David Ross and



AP
Milwaukee Brewers infielder Logan Morrison reaches for a low throw during Milwaukee Brewers Summer Camp at Miller Park, on July 11, 2020 in Milwaukee, WI.

Cristian Pache left the team's first intrasquad game after he appeared to hurt his right foot or ankle while trying to steal second base. After the game, manager Brian Snitker said Pache avoided a serious injury.

Atlanta right-hander Mike Soroka gave up one run in four innings.

The St. Louis Cardinals' Hall of Fame induction ceremony has been postponed because of the virus. This year's class of Bill White, John Tudor and Tommy Herr will be enshrined along with next year's class on August 21, 2021.

The Toronto Blue Jays will honor the late Tony Fernandez by wearing a patch with his No. 1 on the left sleeve of their jerseys.

Fernandez is the Blue Jays' career leader in games (1,450), hits (1,583) and triples (72). He spent 12 seasons with Toronto in four stints and had a .288 batting average and 2,276 hits over 17 big league seasons. Fernandez also played for San Diego, the Mets and Yankees, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Milwaukee.

Fernandez had nine RBI in Toronto's six-game win over Philadelphia in the 1993 World Series. He had kidney problems and died Feb. 16 at age 57.

In other news, Yankees right fielder Aaron Judge remains slowed by his sore neck and is uncertain for Tuesday's intrasquad game, and pitcher Masahiro Tanaka remains a concern for the start of the season as he recovers from a concussion.

Judge took some swings in an indoor batting cage and worked in the weight room.

five other undisclosed tier one individuals sat out a Chicago Cubs workout as a precaution while awaiting virus test results. Tier one includes players, coaches, physicians and others.

Cubs catcher Willson Contreras complimented the protective measures being taken by the team and MLB.

"I don't think that I'm at risk inside the ballpark," Contreras said. "Walking the streets, that's the one place that I don't feel safe."

Los Angeles Angels left-hander Patrick Sandoval rejoined the team after contracting the virus last month. The Twins said first baseman Miguel Sano and backup

catcher Willians Astudillo, who tested positive when they arrived at camp, have been eager to return.

"Those guys are itching to get back," Twins president of baseball operations Derek Falvey said. "They make the phone call every day after they get a new test, and they want to know, 'Is it negative yet? Can I come back?' And that's been a little challenging and frustrating for them."

In Miami, perhaps the pandemic's epicenter, the Marlins hope their players can minimize the risk away from the ballpark by wearing masks and avoiding crowds.

"We've made it really clear

to our guys how important it is, not only for themselves but the organization, their teammates, their teammates' families," manager Don Mattingly said. "For me, every individual in the South Florida area should have the same mindset. It's a serious situation. We're taking it seriously."

The virus is a wild card in trying to plan the roster, Mattingly said.

"This situation is different from anything we've gone through," he said. "Two days from now, you don't know what happens to your club. You have to continue to be flexible in your thinking and your options. We're trying to get everybody ready, so every-

body who is here is an option."

The Washington Nationals placed pitchers Wander Suero and Roenis Elias on the injured list. No reasons were given.

Nationals ace Max Scherzer struck out nine in four innings in an intrasquad game.

Baltimore Orioles left-hander Ty Blach will undergo season-ending Tommy John surgery, and shortstop Richie Martin will have an operation on his right wrist that will sideline him for two to three months.

Each procedure is scheduled for Wednesday.

"It's awful for both of them," manager Brandon Hyde said.

Braves rookie outfielder



OHIO—The head-to-head showdown many fans were hoping for this week at Muirfield Village will have to wait until at least the weekend.

Brooks Koepka will play in one of four featured groups for the first two rounds of the Memorial Tournament. However, he will not be grouped with Bryson DeChambeau, the winner in Detroit two weeks ago who has unintentionally become somewhat of a rival to Koepka.

Instead, Koepka draws the No. 1-ranked player in the world, Rory McIlroy, and five-time Memorial champion Tiger Woods, who will play on Tour for the first time since the Gen-

Woods grouped with Koepka, McIlroy at Memorial

esis Invitational in February.

Woods has played just three times this season, winning the Zozo Championship, tying for ninth at the Farmers Insurance Open and ending up solo 68th at Riviera. McIlroy had seven straight top-5s, including a win, to begin the season, but since the Tour returned from its three-month absence during the COVID-19 pandemic, McIlroy has no top-10s in three starts.

Koepka is coming off a missed cut last week at Muirfield Village and has just one top-10 this season as he continues to recover from an 'excruciating' injury to his left knee, which he re-injured in October after undergoing a stem-cell treatment following last year's Tour Championship.

DeChambeau will be grouped with last week's Workday Charity Open winner Collin Morikawa and defending Memorial champion Patrick Cantlay. The other two featured groups will be Justin Thomas, Dustin Johnson and Xander Schauffele, and Phil Mickelson, Justin Rose and Shane Lowry.

While Woods, McIlroy and Koepka is one heckuva draw, golf fans on Twitter had been

lobbying for a Koepka-DeChambeau pairing after Koepka appeared to take a couple of shots at the bulked-up DeChambeau last week, first tweeting only a GIF of "Eastbound and Down" character Kenny Powers attacking a cameraman over alleged steroid allegations, and then telling reporters that he was going to "run the table" after committing to the Memorial late Friday, seemingly a reference to DeChambeau's recent casino speak.

The perceived shots come after Koepka called DeChambeau out for slow play last August at The Northern Trust,

causing DeChambeau to seek out Koepka's caddie, Ricky Elliott, and tell him that he wished Koepka would make those comments to his face.

The two later met on the range at Liberty National and apparently squashed the beef. Though neither player revealed what was said, less than two months later DeChambeau announced in Las Vegas that he was going to transform his body in a quest to add speed and distance.

Nearly 40 pounds later, DeChambeau has, and two weeks removed from his victory in Detroit he finds himself

ranked seventh in the world, right behind Koepka.

No spectators for rest of PGA Tour season

The remainder of the 2019-2020 PGA Tour will take place without spectators as the United States battles a resurgence in the coronavirus pandemic, tournament officials said on Monday.

In a coordinated announcement, the remaining tournaments on the schedule said they will not host fans due to concerns over COVID-19.

All five tournaments held since the PGA Tour returned from its coronavirus shutdown in June have taken place without spectators. *(NBC/AP)*

Jackson on Mahomes: I've got to get where he's at



BALTIMORE—Patrick Mahomes was a backup for most of his rookie season,

won the league MVP in his second NFL season and won the Super Bowl MVP in his third season. Lamar Jackson wants to follow the same path.

Jackson, the Ravens quarterback who started off as a backup as a rookie in 2018, then won the league MVP in 2019, said he's eyeing Mahomes and hoping his career follows the same trajectory.

"I've got to win to the Super Bowl, I've got to get where he's at," Jackson said on ESPN.

Jackson and the Ravens entered last year's playoffs as the Super Bowl favorites, but they were upset in the divisional round. Jackson said he has moved beyond that.

"It's over. I don't dwell on losses. That was in January," Jackson said.

But this year, Jackson is hoping for a postseason that ends with a win, and a Vince Lombardi Trophy.

Face shields for players

With NFL training camps set to start at the end of the month, the league believes it is closer to one answer when it comes to player safety amid the coronavirus pandemic: face shields for the players' helmets.

The NFL and the players' union agreed to several protocols in a 42-page document



last week, including team travel, media and treatment response. They have also updated the facilities protocol, specifically addressing training camp, using recommendations from a joint committee of doctors, trainers and strength coaches.

However, the two sides haven't agreed on testing and screening protocols for the coronavirus.

One idea suggested by the union's medical director, Dr. Thom Mayer, to help control the spread of the virus was to have players wear face masks. The league's engineers and a sports equipment company tested prototypes for the masks, but players shot it down.

"We've had a real robust

discussion around it that stretches back a number of months," said Dr. Allen Sills, the league's chief medical officer. "From the start, the NFL Players Association, their medical advisers, their engineers have been engaged with us. We've also had dialogue with players along the way trying to look at early prototypes and developments."

The face shield was designed by Oakley, which already provides visors for the players.

"We have well over 700 players that used the visors last year," said Renie Anderson, chief revenue officer and executive vice president of NFL Partnerships.

The face shield has received a better response than the

mask suggestion.

"The player feedback was integral in coming up with this design," said Dr. Jeff Crandall, chairman of the NFL's Engineering Committee. "They (Oakley) would start with this design and say: 'Do you like this one better or this one? How's your field of view on this one?'"

"At the end, they did have feedback from players. This was their choice for the players they've evaluated so far. I think each player is going to have an evaluation for themselves in terms of exactly how they favor one concept versus another."

Crandall said Oakley came up with the design.

"Clear plastic with slits or holes in it that block any direct path of a droplet, but do pro-

^{AP}
In this Sept. 22, 2019 file photo, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, left, and Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson greet each other after their NFL football game in Kansas City, Mo.

mote air flow, communication, soundwaves," he said.

"They had a visor that covers the eyes. What could we do to cover the mouth and nose area?" Crandall added. "So they came up with a mouth shield that tried to keep the field of view as much as possible; you don't want to block the lower part. You want to

promote breathing and not a sense of restriction. You want to maximize comfort.

"Prevention from touching the face was also a consideration, and obviously the biggest consideration was how can you mitigate the exchange of droplets," he said.

Sills noted the shield was designed to deal with how the virus spreads.

"Just like any face shield or facemask for that matter, you're thinking about the aerosolization of droplets and the spread of it via that mechanism, which is starting to be recognized as the more important mode of transmission."

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pre-tournament registrations packets to alleviate crowding the morning of the tournament, as well as allowing only one golfer per cart. Full COVID-19 procedures can be found in the registration form.

Men and women of different skill levels will have a chance at amazing cash prizes: \$800 for first \$650 for second, and \$500 for third places in each of the two categories—Team Gross and Team Double Peoria. There will be additional optional play contests for closest to the pin (four holes) and aggressive drive with winners taking home \$150 cash prizes each. Golfers will also enjoy complimentary swag bags courtesy of SCC members, on-course snacks and refresh-

ments, and post-tournament refreshments.

Show time is at 6am and shotgun start is set at 7am. The registration fee for general public is \$120/per person (\$140 after Aug. 3). Chamber members and their scramble partners will enjoy a discounted rate of \$110/member (\$120 after Aug. 3). Tickets for amazing raffle prizes are available for purchase during registration and throughout the tournament. Save time and money when you sign up before Aug. 3 with an additional \$10 off for the optional play contest.

For more information about the event or SCC, visit its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/saipanchamber or contact Franco Santos at 234-7150 or coordinator@saipanchamber.com (*Saipan Tribune*)

INSPIRING

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ferent level of football in college and when they returned they were able to share a lot of things to their teammates," the NMIFA technical head added.

"Third, they are all products of NMIFA's grassroots program. They inspire and mo-

tivate the next generation of NMI players. They are proof that players from the NMI can move up to the collegiate level—study and play football at the same time," Mita said.

The head coach also said that returning to the islands gave Tenorio and company a glimpse of how the program continues to develop and what they could

still contribute to its success.

"They are seeing the national team's direction and always think of how they can help the team. We, at NMIFA, appreciate their contribution and loyalty to the national team," Mita said.

"I know it is not easy to study and play football at the same time in different environments. But your effort will

pay off later for sure. Keep working hard and facing those challenges that will pave the way for the national team and your future," he added.

Meanwhile, Galarion and Aninzo, who are heading to Guam and United Kingdom, respectively, said rejoining the national team is something they look forward to every

time their return to the islands. They are also thankful that they are part of the national team and are given opportunities to play off-island.

"It's always an honor to come back and train. There is nothing better in the world than playing football and experiencing different places, along with meeting great peo-

ple," Galarion said.

"Being able to spend time here at home has been a blessing. I don't think there could have been a better place to be during this pandemic and being able to resume national team training has helped us stay fit off-season. Also, we are happy to help develop football for the future generations," Aninzo said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sunjoon Tenorio, front, and Enrico Del Rosario do dribbling drills during a training session at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last week.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2018 file photo, goalie Chris Aninzo, standing left, joins his teammates for a group photo before the CNMI Men's National Team duels Macau in the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2019 Round 1 at the Mongolian Football Federation Stadium in Ulan Bator.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMI NATIONAL TEAM MEMBERS

Inspiring next generation of players



Hark Galarion works on a drill during their practice session last week at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CNMI Men's National Team head coach Michiteru Mita watches his players perform drills. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director and CNMI Men's National Team head coach Michiteru Mita was among the well-wishers of the seven players leaving the islands to pursue their studies and he thanked them for their continued involvement with the program.

"Them coming back and training together brings a lot of benefits for the national team," said Mita.

Sunjoon Tenorio, Hark Galarion, Joshua Abragan, Enrico Del Rosario, Chris Aninzo, and Ryan Relucio returned to Saipan and rejoined the national team's practice sessions at the NMI Soccer Training Center. They are going off-island anew to get ready for the resumption of their classes in universities, while Thaiphi Austria will



start his, as he heads to Trine University in Indiana.

Though the returning players had limited training sessions with their teammates, Mita said their presence on the team is big enough, especially to the young members of the squad.

"First, at this time of the pandemic it means a lot for the team that we can train together. Second, these players learned and experienced a dif-

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Safety protocols in place for SCC golf tourney

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and golfers will enjoy the fresh outdoors with the staging of the 2020 Two-Man Scramble Scholarship Golf Tournament on Aug. 8 on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The SCC Scholarship Tournament was initially scheduled last April, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the community maintains



Vulnerability Level at "blue", the SCC decided to move the tournament in August to raise money for scholarships for high school, college, and vocational students.

Registration forms are available for download at www.saipanchamber.com/events, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort (front desk) and the SCC office located at the Marianas Business Plaza, 3rd Floor, Suite 315. Golfers are encouraged to submit their forms and fees before Aug. 3 at the SCC office where registrants can easily pay for registration, raffle tickets, and optional play contests to ease their check-in and help promote social distancing measures.

SCC has implemented COVID-19 procedures to ensure the safety of golfers, which includes issuing

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Laolao Bay Golf & Resort will host the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2020 Two-Man Scramble Scholarship Golf Tournament on Aug. 8.